

BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!

# JACK STAFF



image

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COMICS PRESENTS

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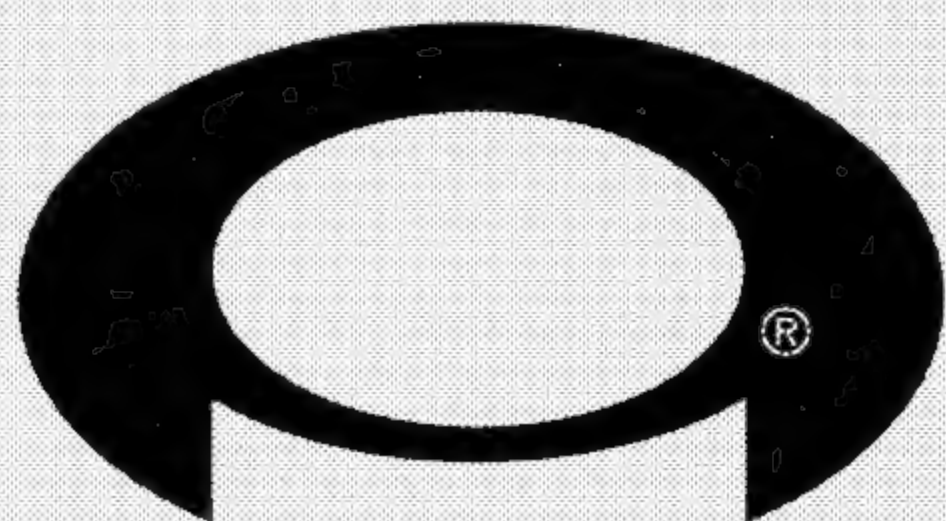
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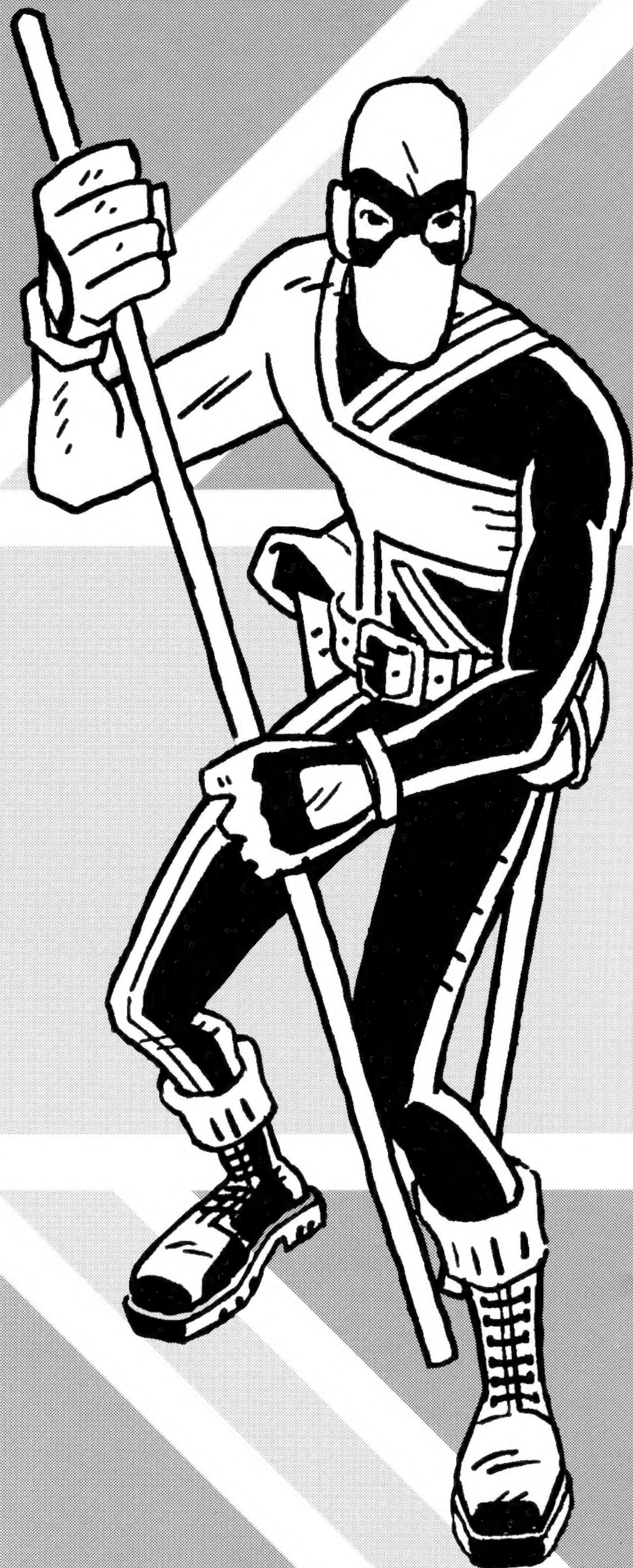
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BEGINNING THIS ISSUE!

THIS  
IS A  
RESTRICTED  
AREA.

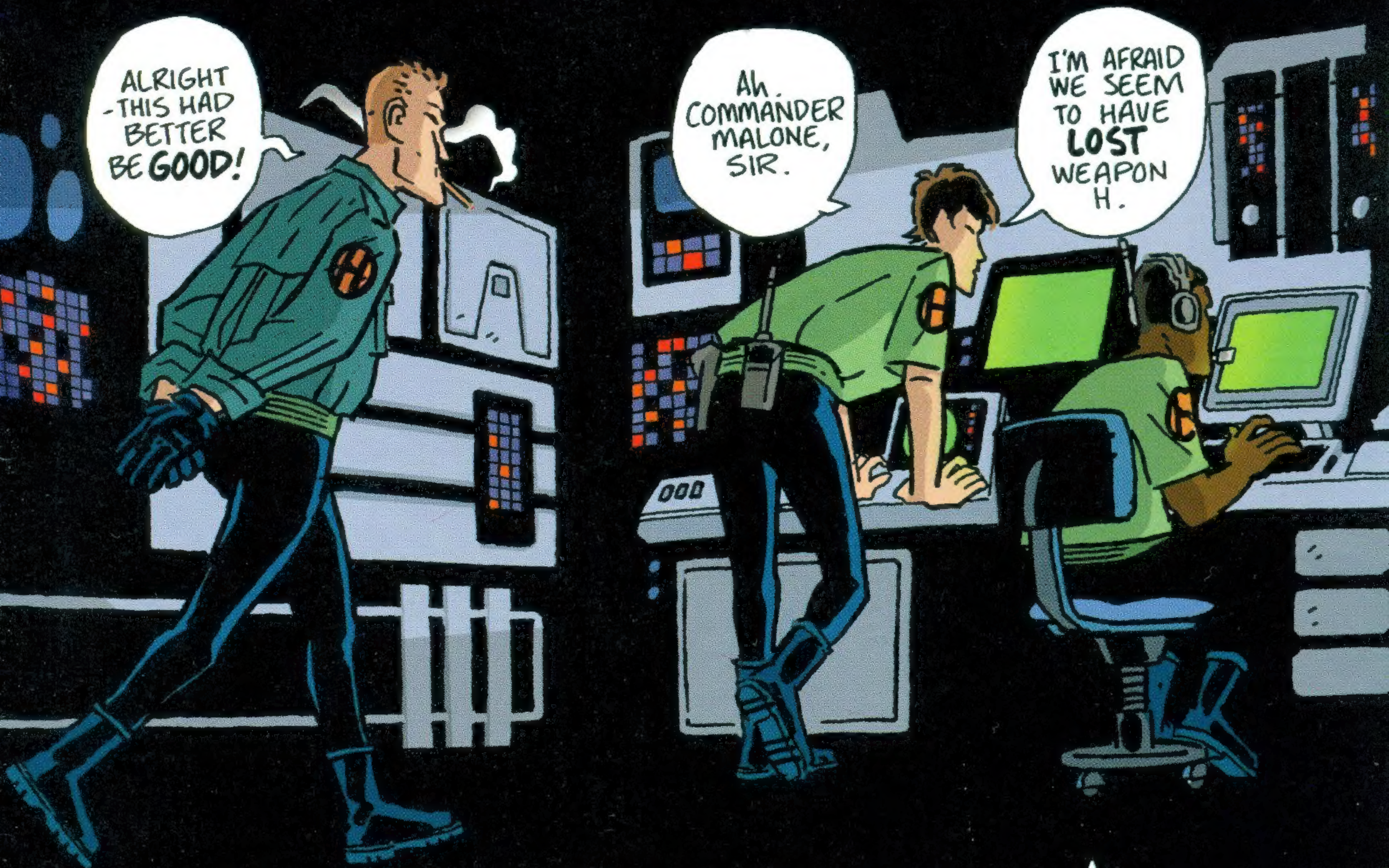
VOICE  
RECOGNITION  
CHECKS  
INITIATED.

JUST **SHUT  
UP** AND OPEN  
THE **DAMN  
DOOR!**

WELCOME TO  
**PROJECT  
HURRICANE**  
COMMANDER  
MALONE.

OPENING  
THE DAMN  
DOOR  
NOW SIR.

A NEW ERA OF ADVENTURE FOR BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!



★ A PAUL GRIST PRODUCTION ★



and introducing **MR. PHIL ELLIOTT** on colours!







THIS, IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING, IS

# JACK STAFF

BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!

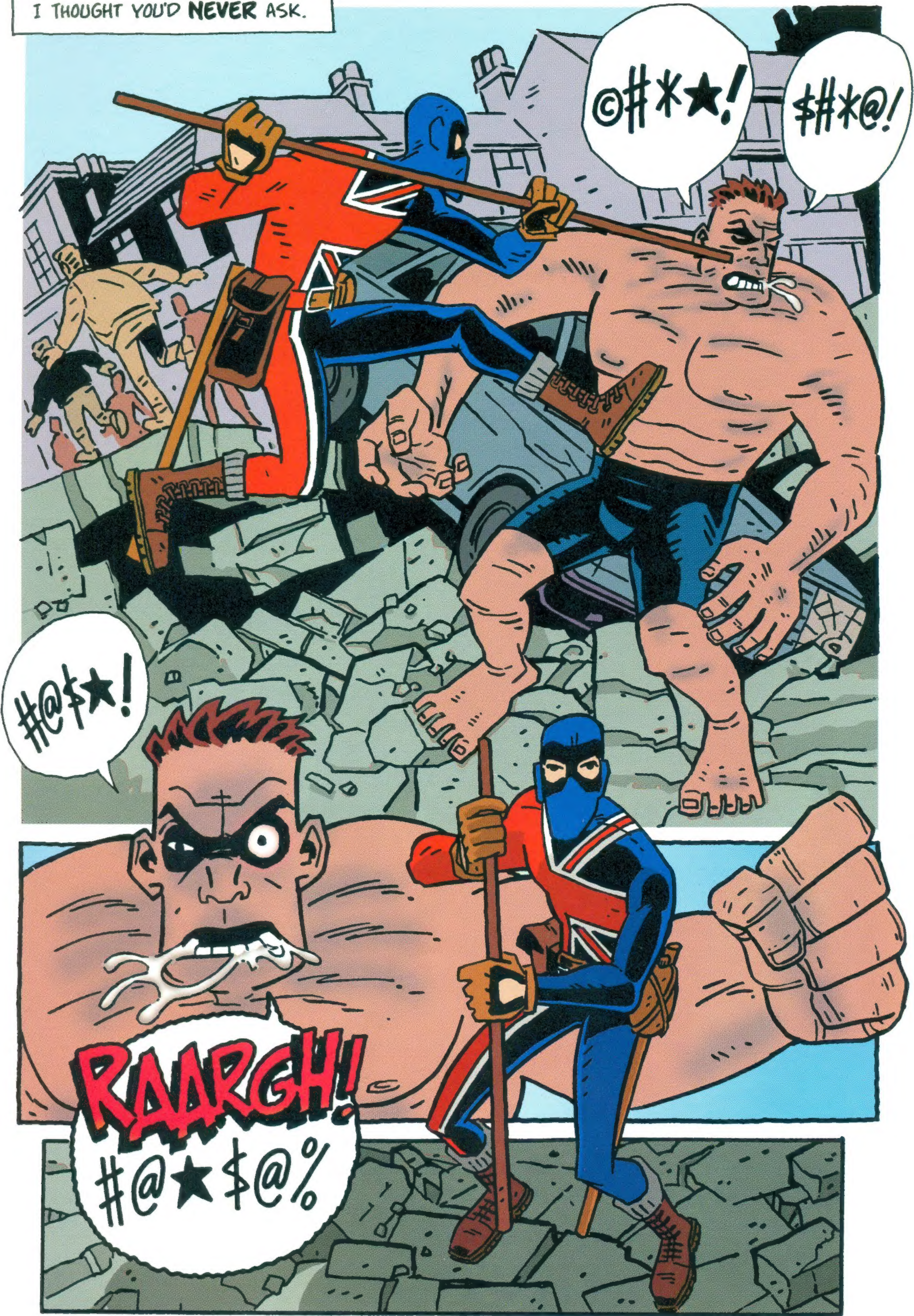


AT LEAST HE **WAS**. NOW YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING "IF HE'S **SO** GREAT, HOW COME I'VE **NEVER** HEARD OF HIM?" WELL THAT'S BECAUSE **TWENTY YEARS** AGO HE DISAPPEARED AND EVERYBODY JUST **FORGOT** ABOUT HIM.

SO THE QUESTION YOU HAVE TO ASK IS  
**WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED THERE?**



I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.



©#\*★!

\$#\*@!

#@\$★!

RAARGH!!  
#@\$★\$@%



**RAARGH!**



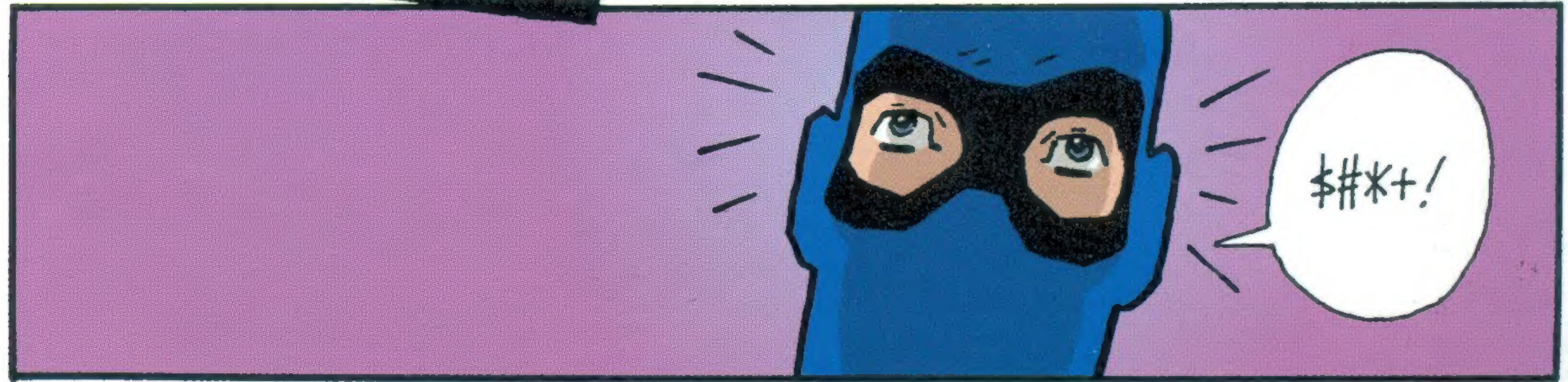
**\$#@★!**



**\*\*\*\*\*!**

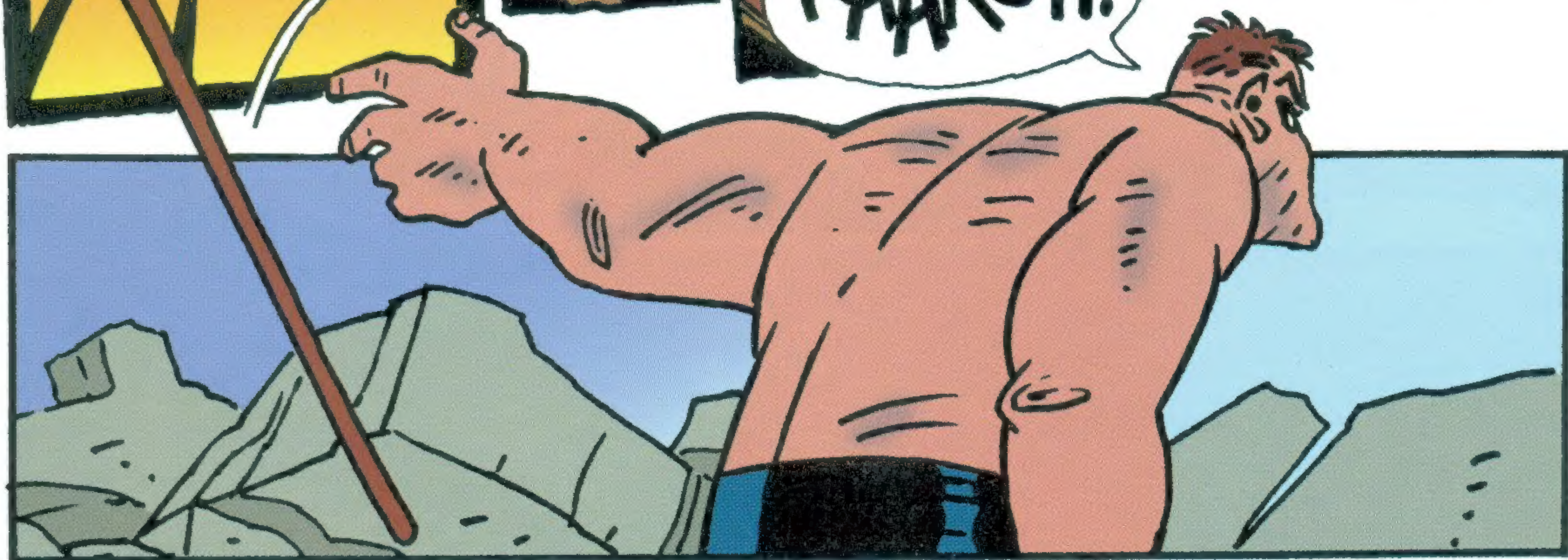
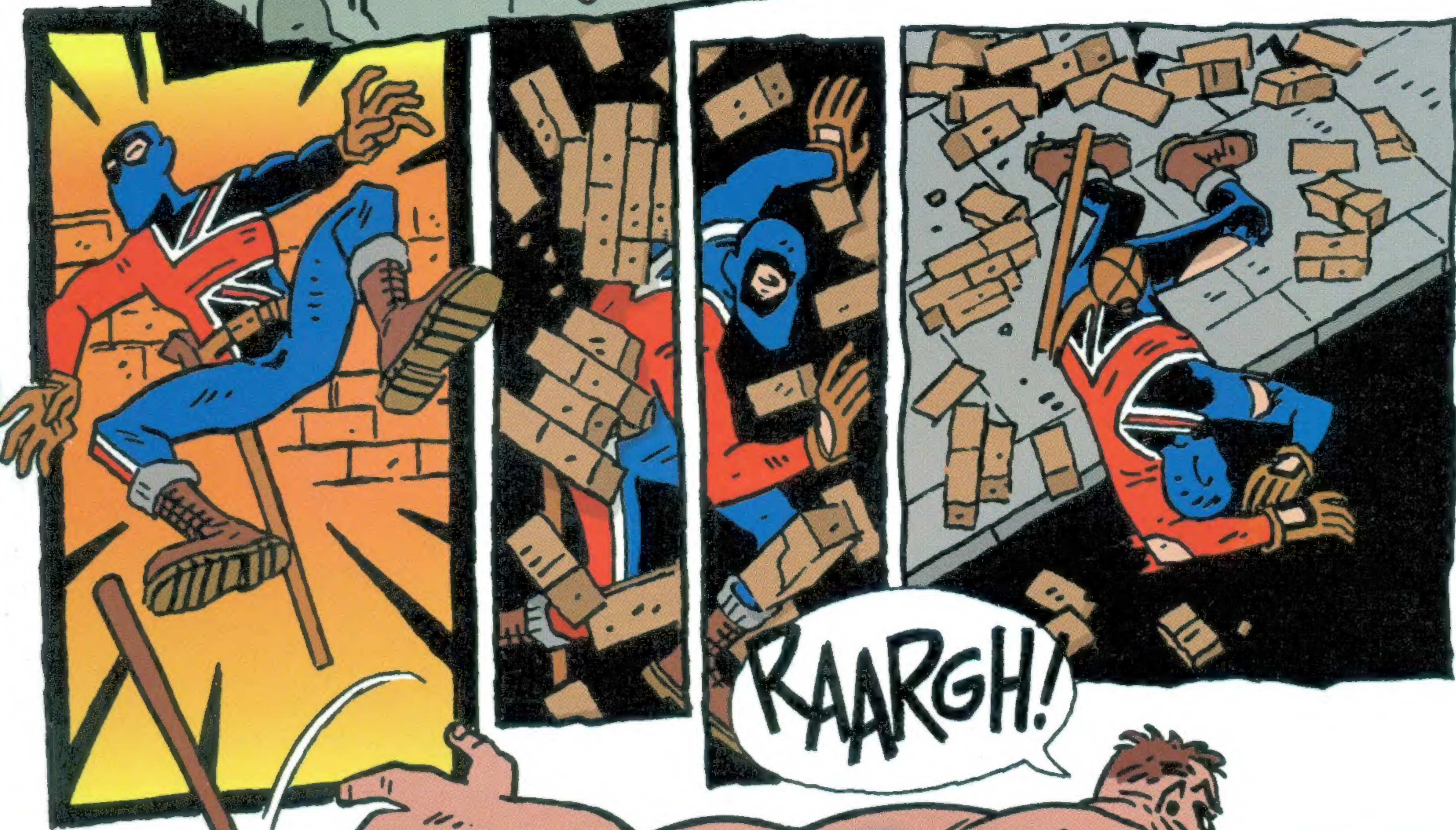


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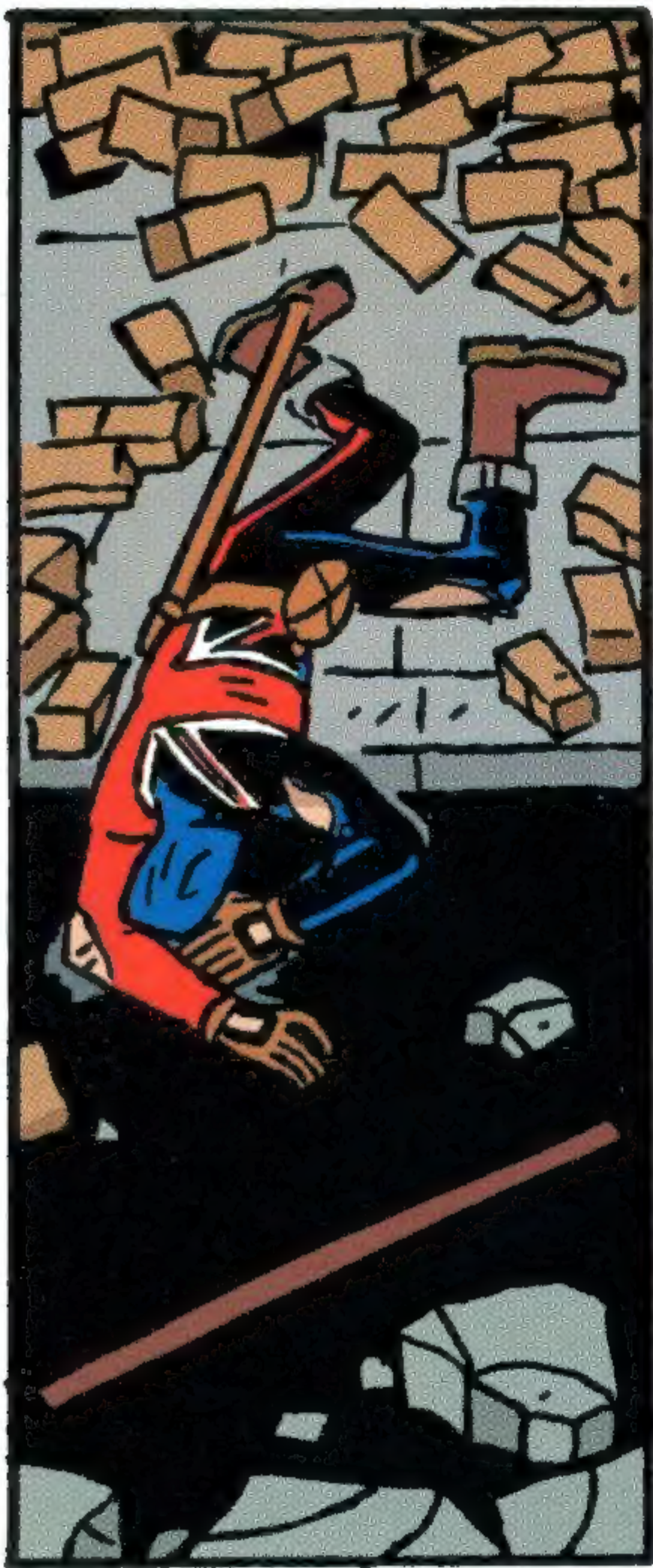


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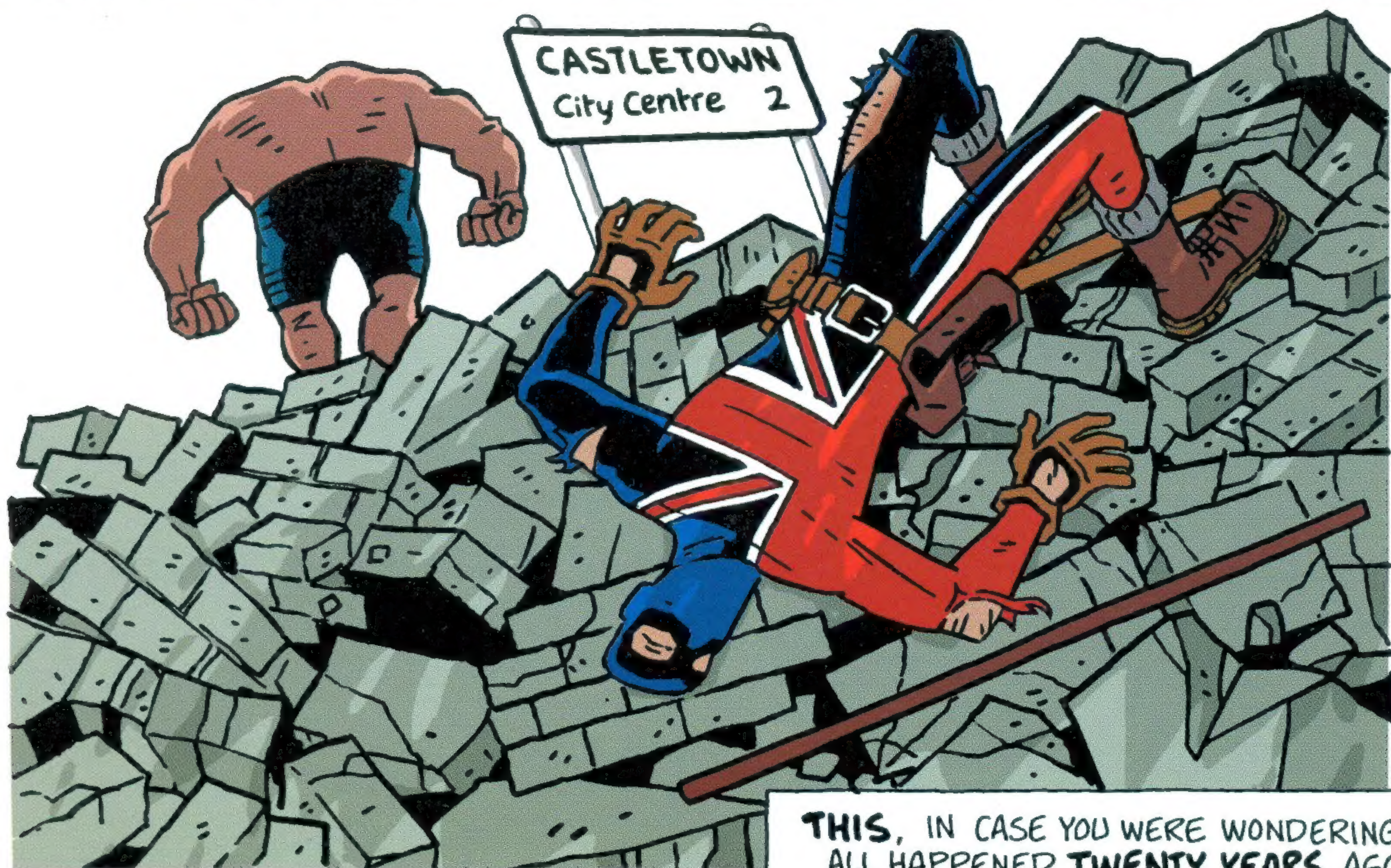
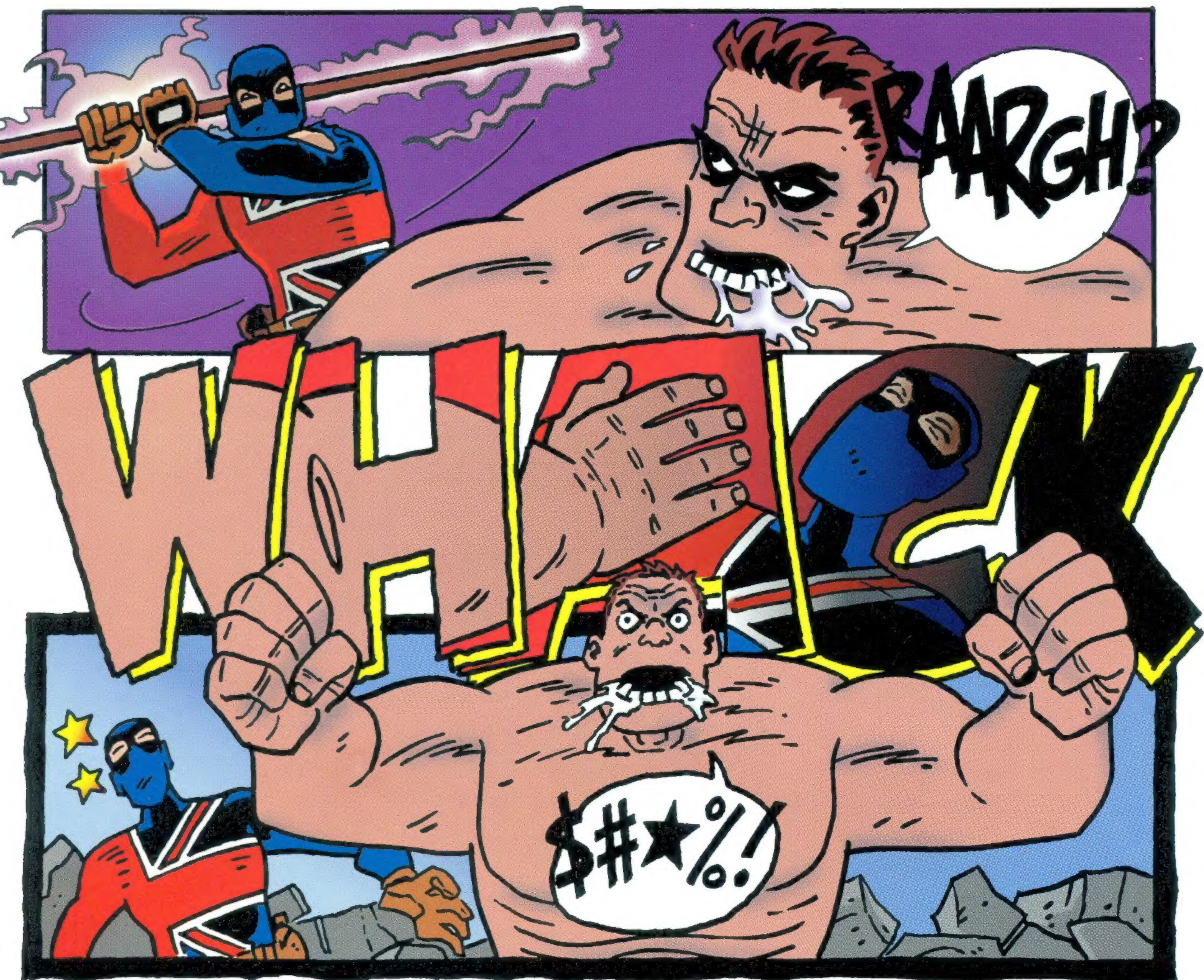










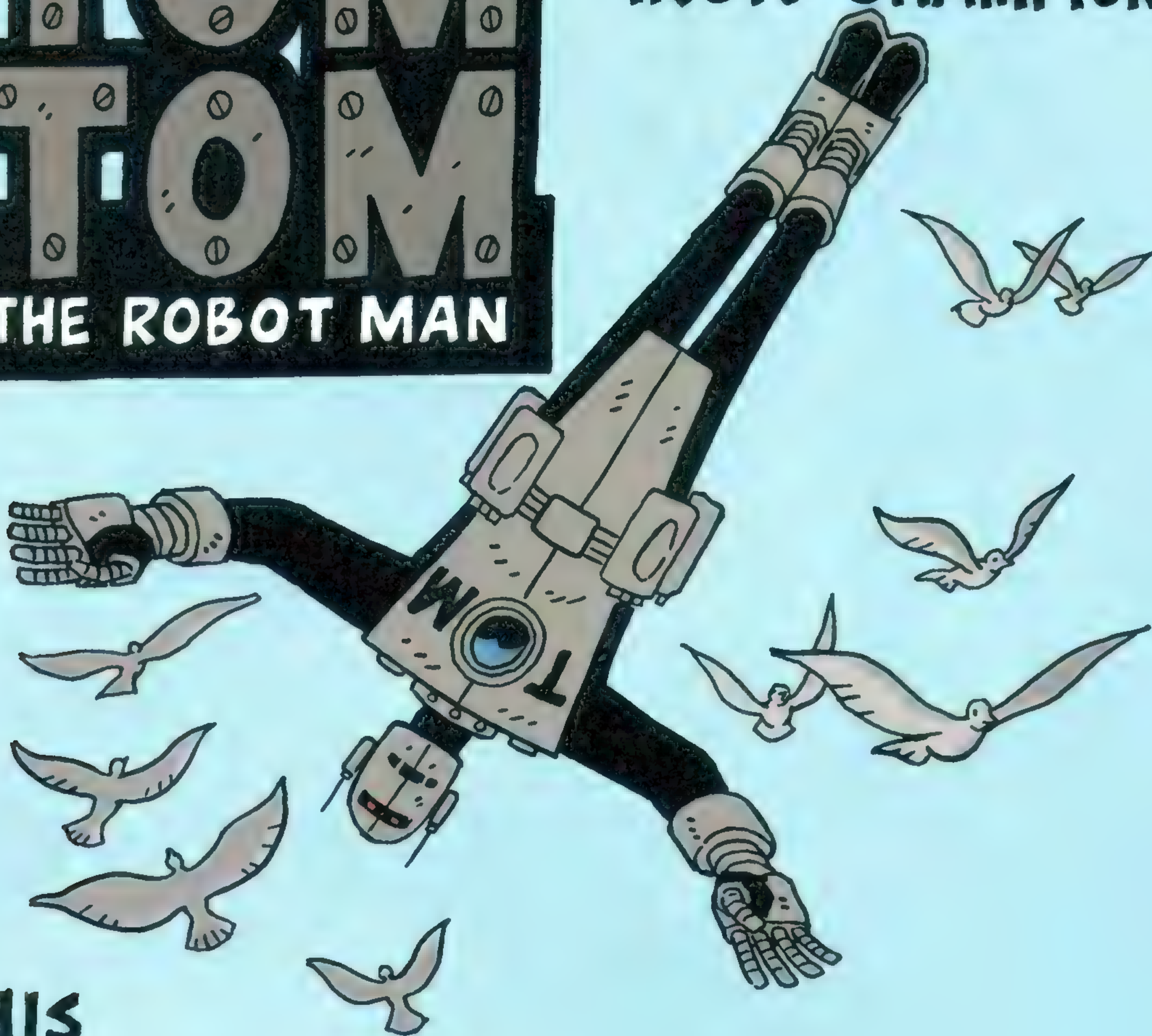




# TOM TOM

THE ROBOT MAN

HE'S BACK!  
CASTLETOWN'S CAST  
IRON CHAMPION!



THIS  
IS  
THE  
MOD  
ERN  
WORLD!

AND  
THAT WAS  
THE JAM  
WITH TODAY'S  
GOLDEN  
MOULDY!

IT'S NINE  
IN THE  
MORNING  
AND YOU'RE  
LISTENING  
TO BOB  
WALKER  
ON ONE OH  
THREE  
CASTLE  
FM  
...

GOOD  
MORN  
-ING  
CASTLE  
TOWN

TODAY'S  
NEWS  
HEADLINE  
IS THE  
CONTINUING  
HUNT FOR  
SHOCK!  
THE ELECTRIC  
POWERED  
SUPER  
VILLAIN!

ACCORDING  
TO THE  
POLICE  
REPORT  
SHOCK!  
WAS LAST  
SIGHTED  
HEADING  
TOWARDS  
THE NORTH  
POWER  
GENERATING  
PLANT  
...

BZZT





HEAR ME, PEOPLE OF CASTLETOWN

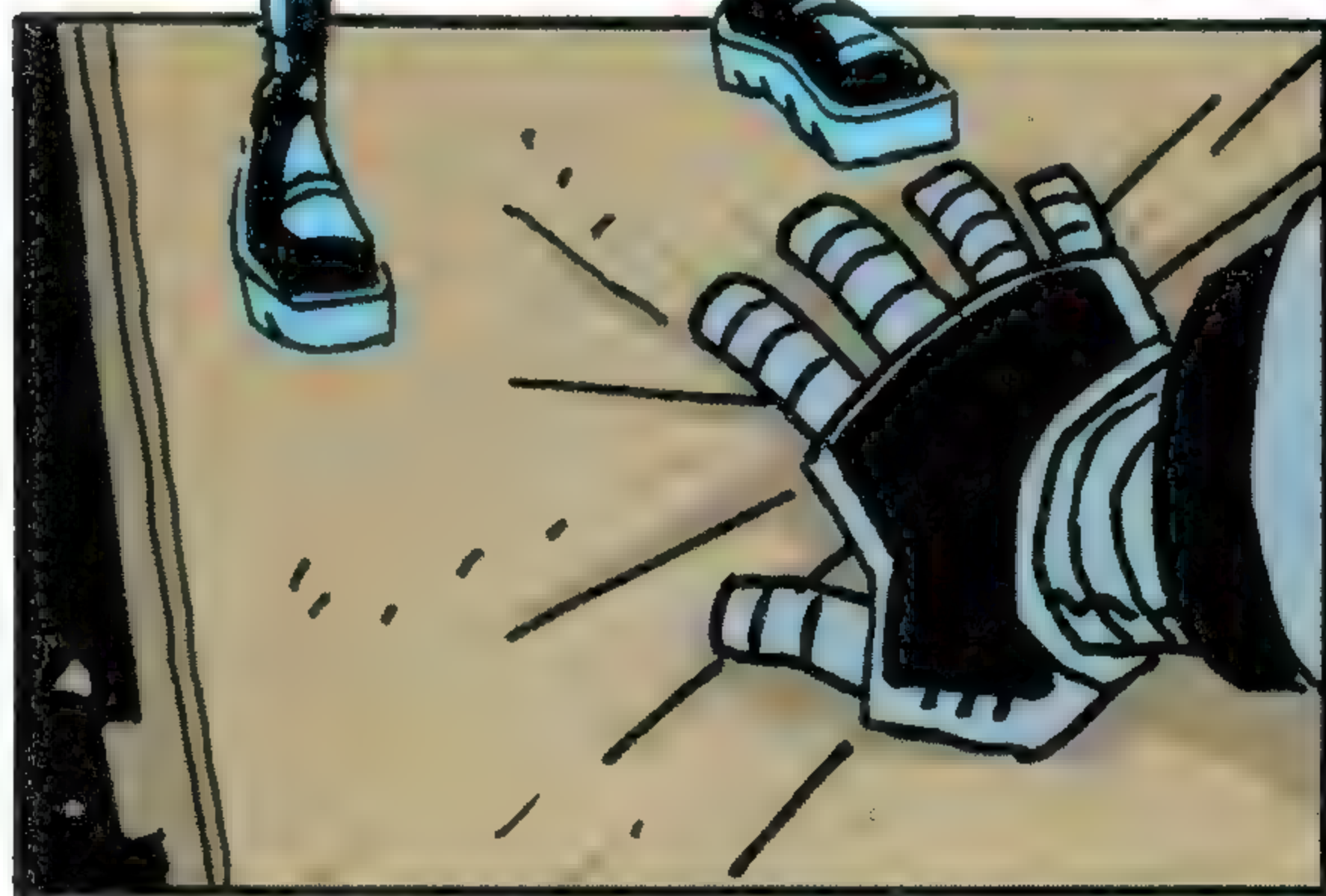
I  
AM

# SHOCK

THE MASTER OF ELECTRICITY!

I WANT ONE MILLION POUNDS  
OR I DESTROY THE NORTH  
POWER GENERATING PLANT!

BELIEVE ME, IT'S GOING TO BE A  
LONG COLD WINTER!







COMMANDER  
HAWKES.

I'VE COME  
TO TAKE  
YOU IN.

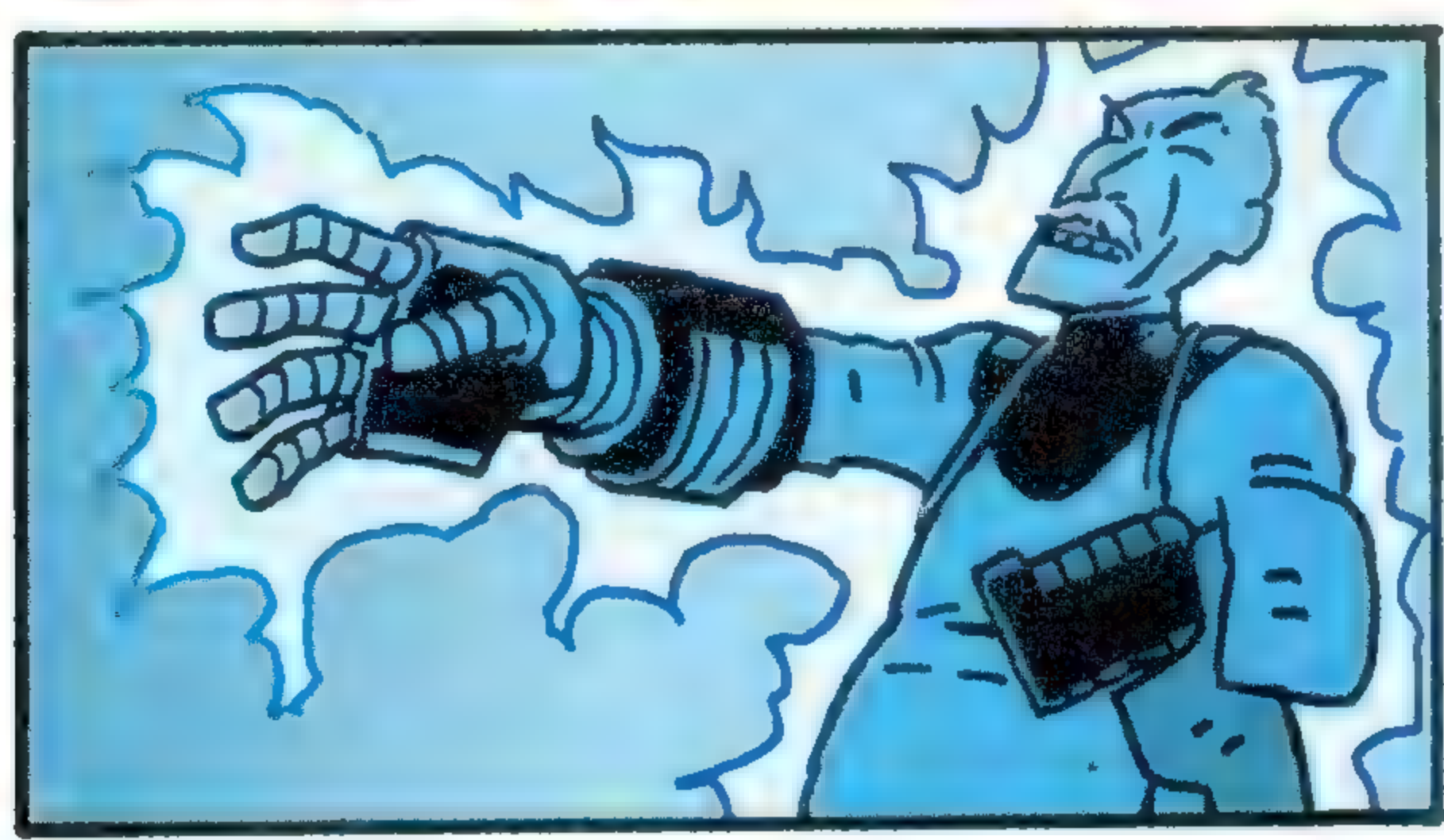
WHERE'S  
**TOM  
TOM?**

I WANT  
THE  
**ROBOT  
MAN!**

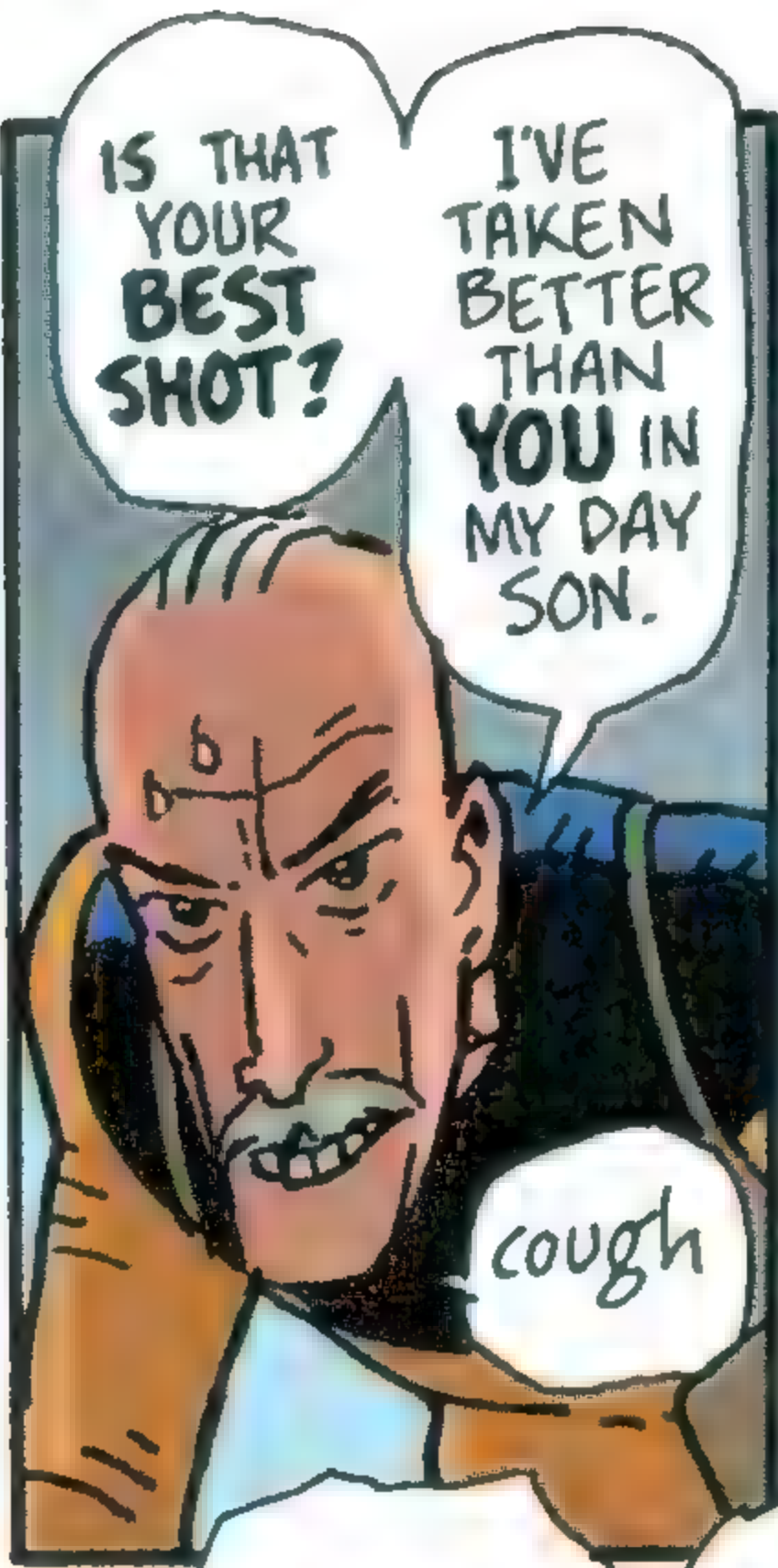
TOM TOM  
WAS **DESTROYED**  
IN A BATTLE  
ABOUT **SIX  
MONTHS** AGO  
NOW LAD.

**NO!**  
I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
YOU!

**LIAR!**







IS THAT  
YOUR  
**BEST  
SHOT?**

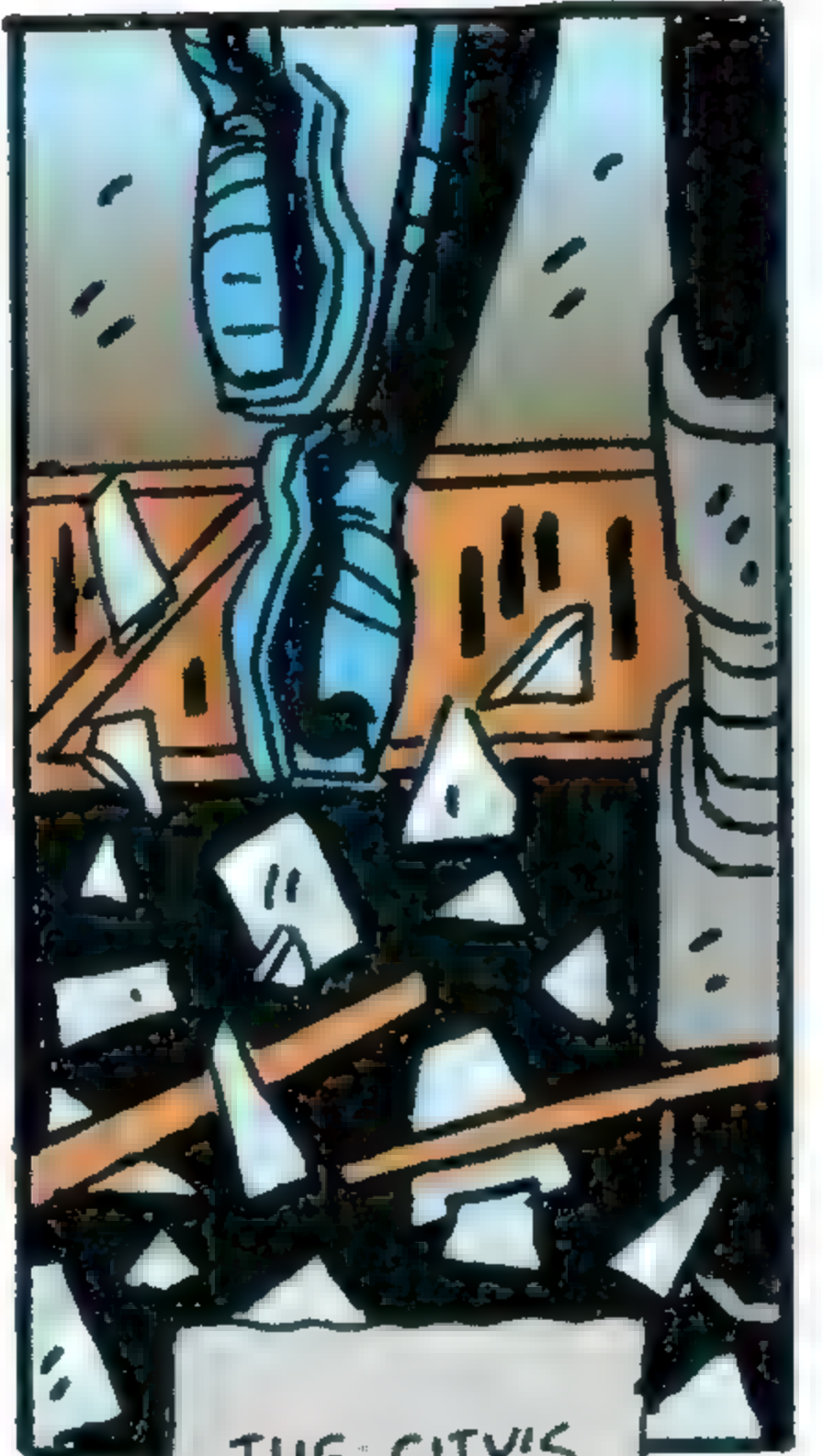
I'VE  
TAKEN  
BETTER  
THAN  
**YOU** IN  
MY DAY  
SON.

cough

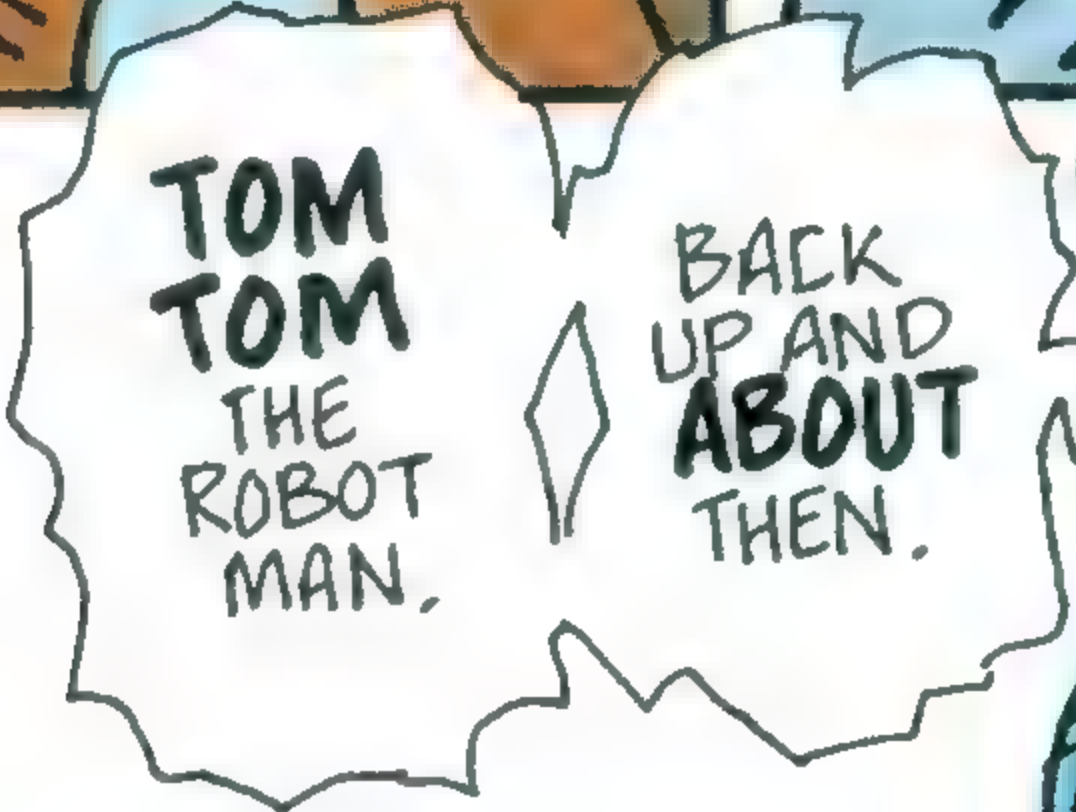


**NEWS  
FLASH**  
OLD  
MAN

IT'S NOT  
**YOUR  
DAY**  
ANY  
MORE

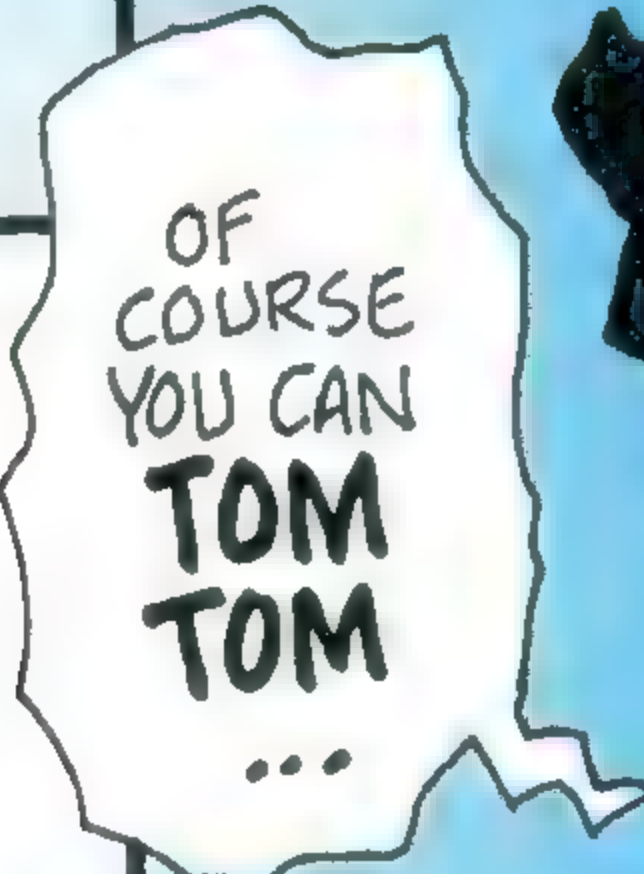


THE CITY'S  
**POWER  
SHOCK.**  
I WANT  
IT BACK.

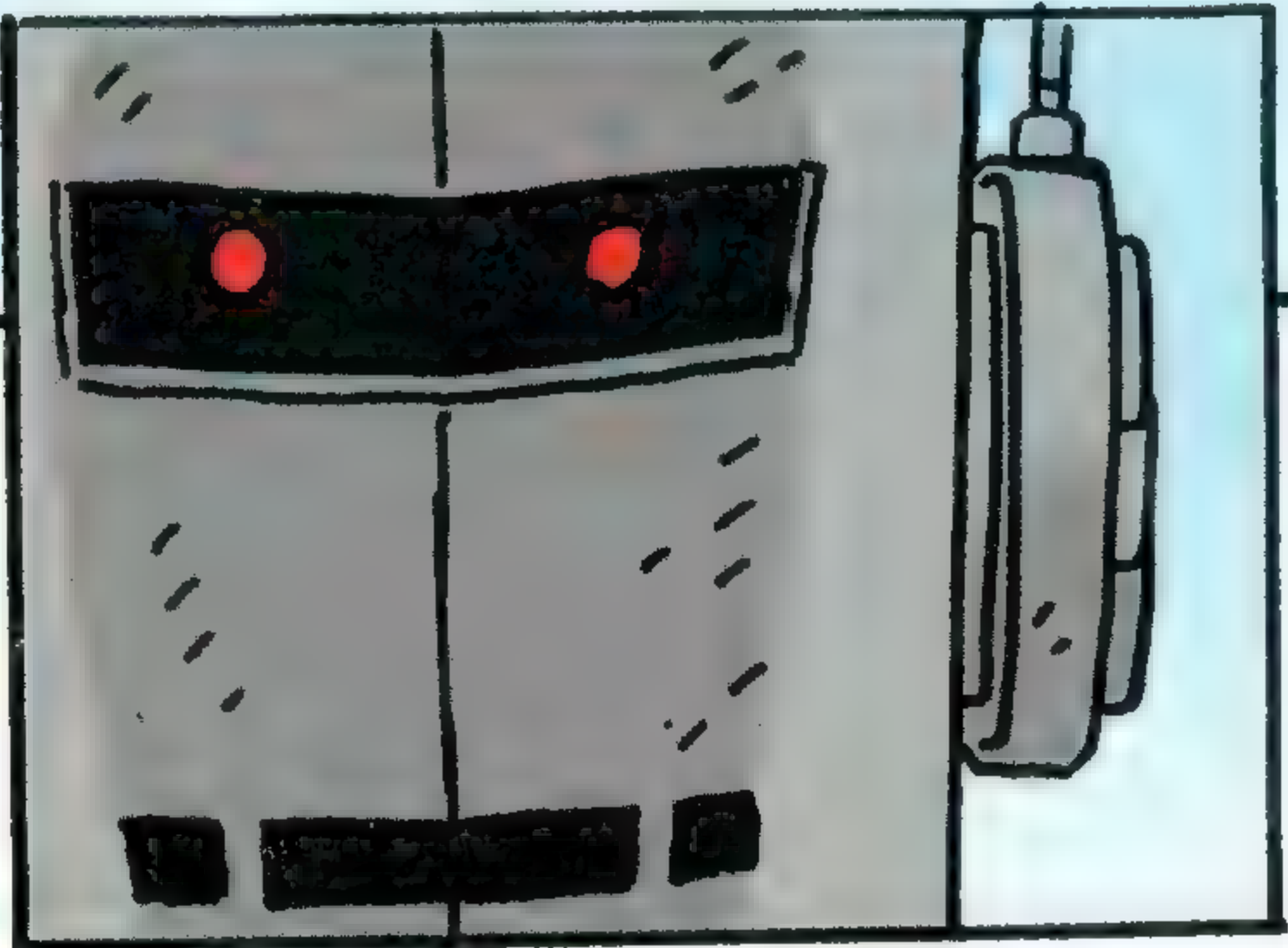


**TOM  
TOM**  
THE  
ROBOT  
MAN.

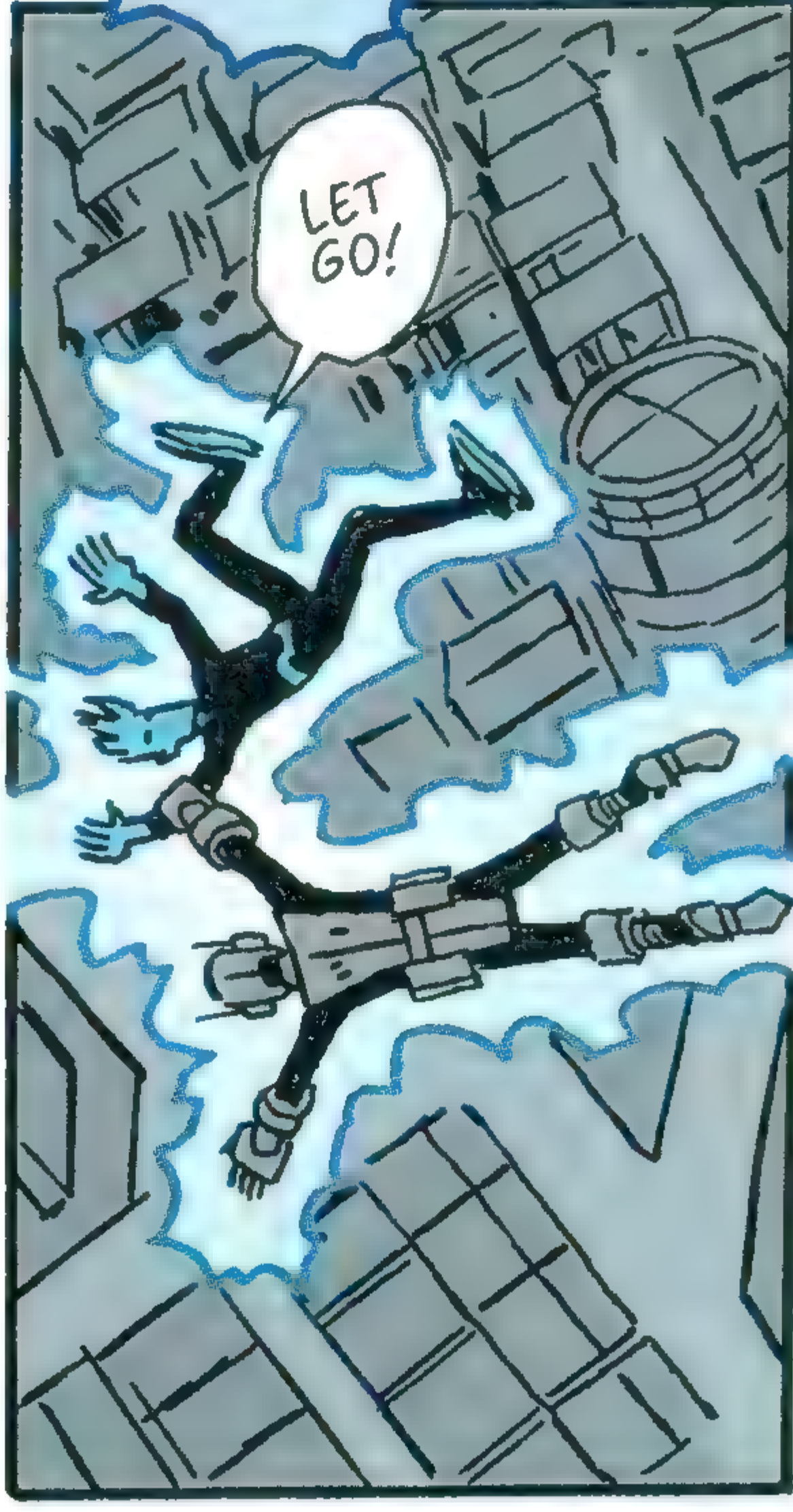
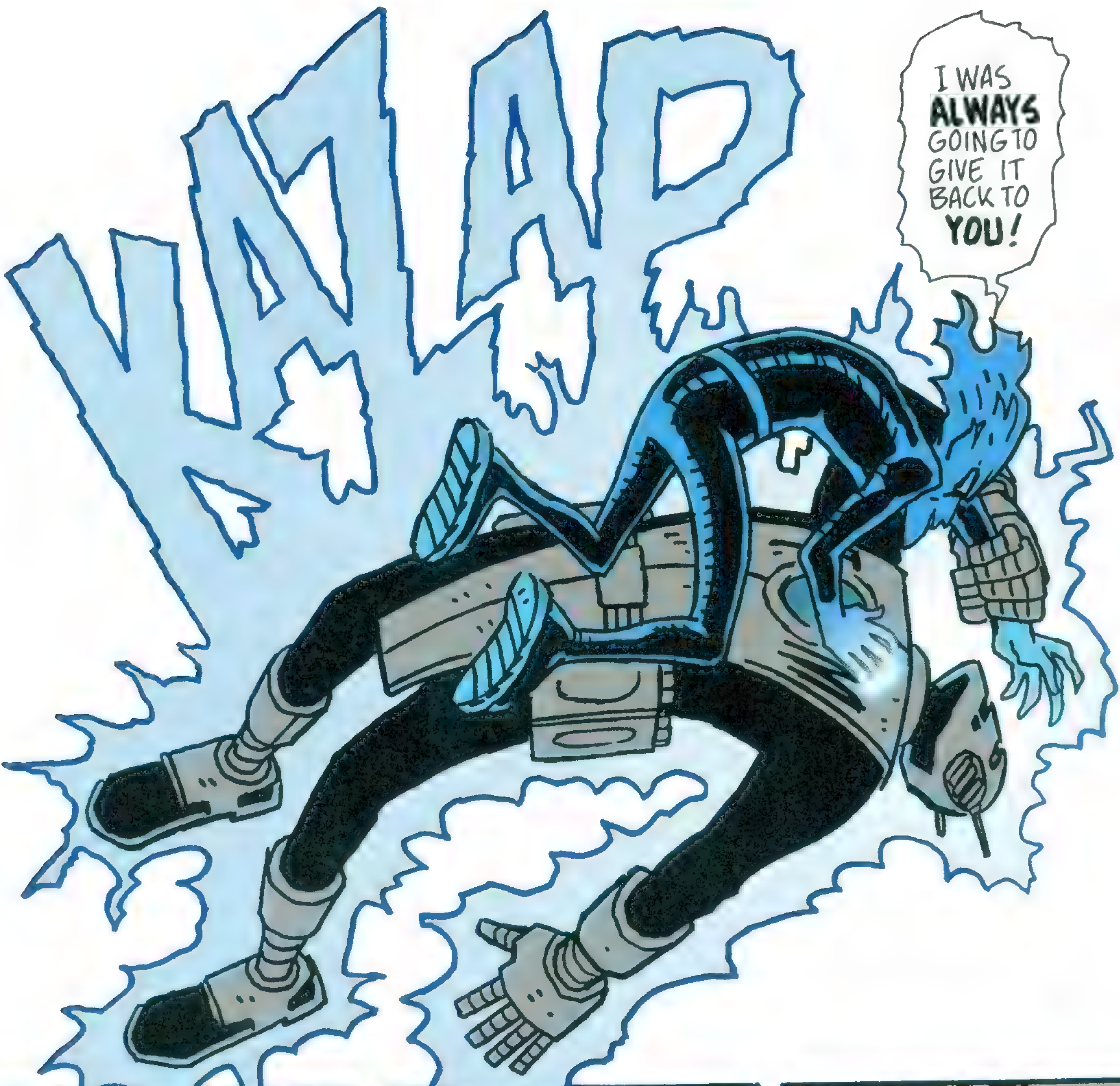
BACK  
UP AND  
**ABOUT  
THEN.**



OF  
COURSE  
YOU CAN  
**TOM  
TOM**  
...









HELEN MORGAN • BEN KULMER • HARRY CRANE



THREE UNUSUAL PEOPLE CAUGHT UP IN A WORLD WHERE THE BIZARRE IS COMMONPLACE. THEY ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE GATE BETWEEN **REALITY** AND **UNREALITY**. THEY ARE THE INVESTIGATORS OF THE **UNEXPLAINABLE**. THE **QUESTION MARK CRIMES**.

THEY ARE



MY NAME IS  
HARRY CRANE.

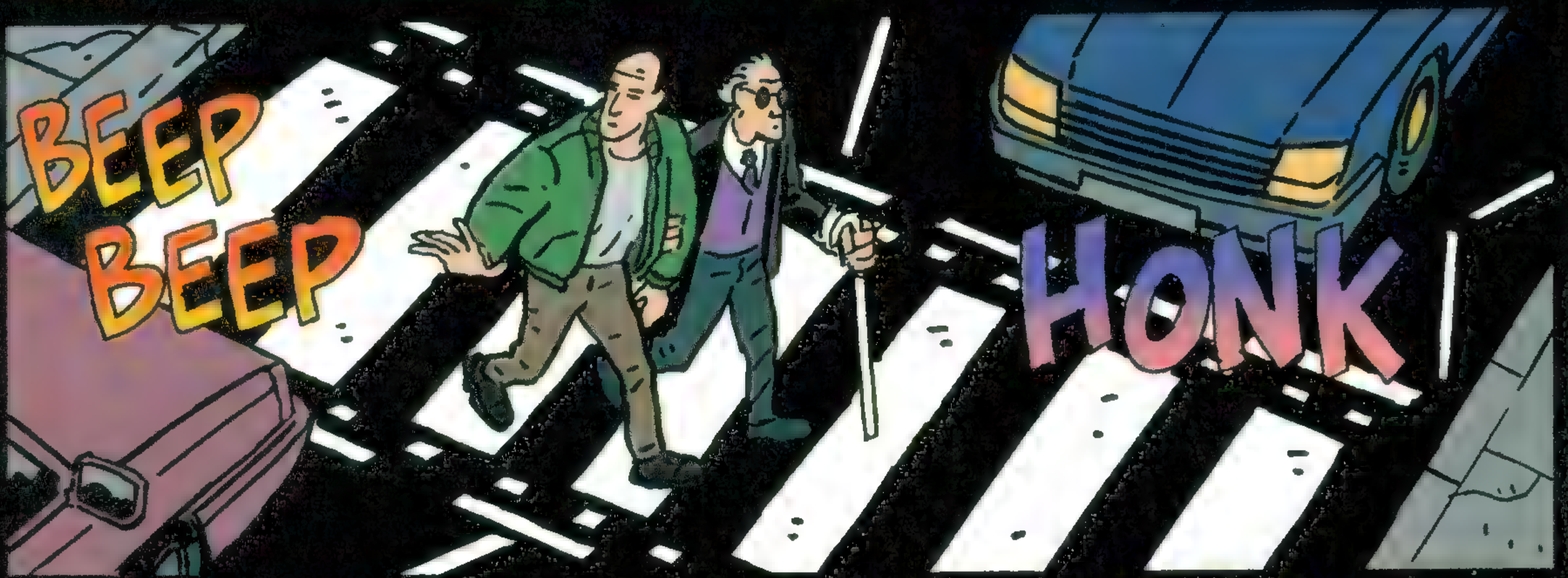
I HAVE THIS  
PROBLEM  
WITH MY EYES.

SOMETIMES  
I SEE THINGS

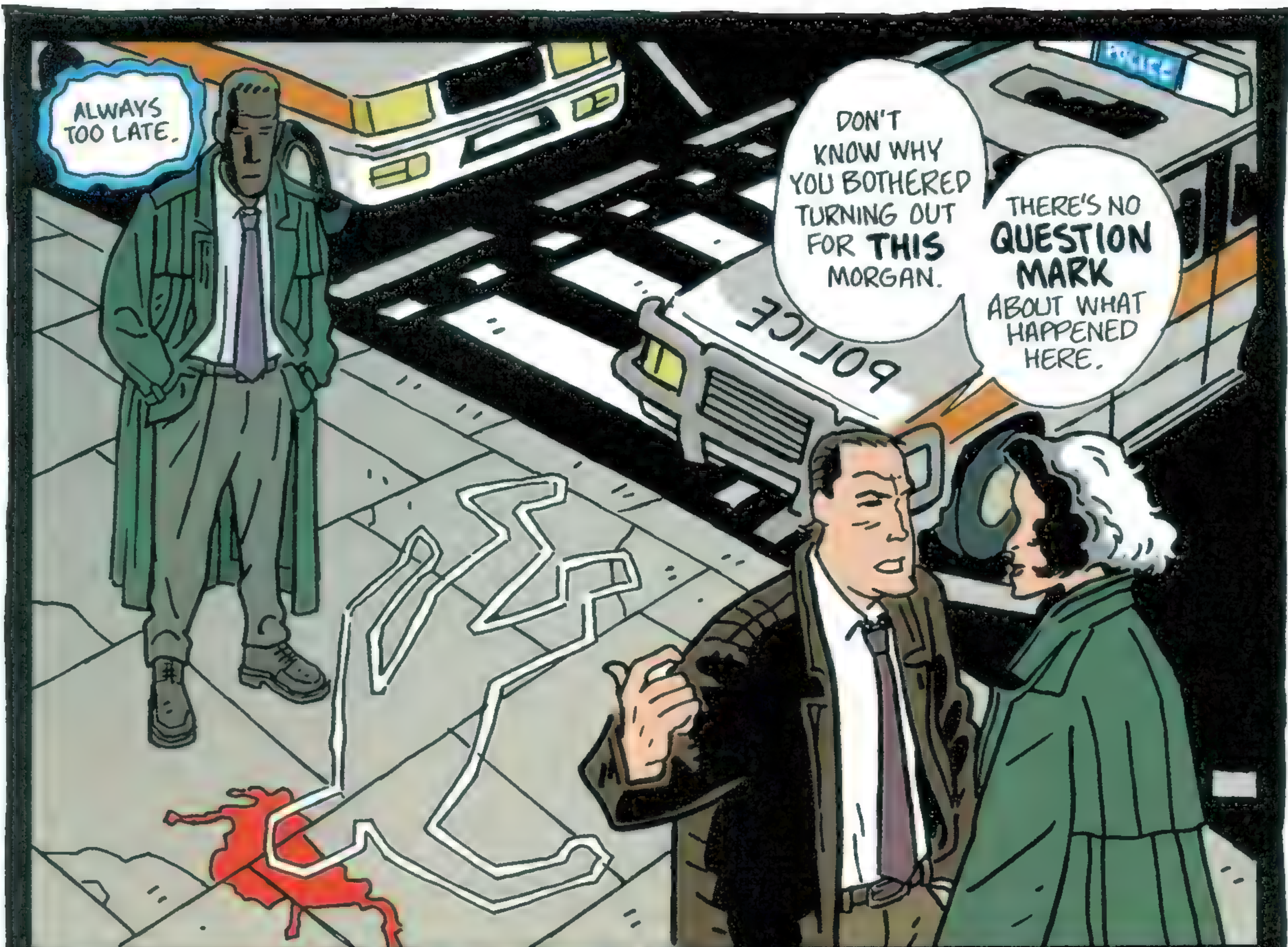
A BROKEN  
SET OF  
TRAFFIC  
LIGHTS.













I've been getting a lot of  
FUNNY LOOKS lately.

Okay, now I'm used to a certain  
amount of HOSTILITY. I'm a  
REPORTER. I didn't come into  
this job looking to make  
friends. I wanted to expose  
HYPOCRISY and INJUSTICE.  
It was a calling.

Now I work for THE WORLDS  
PRESS. It's a job.

It may not be the most highly  
regarded paper in the country,  
but I'm used to all the nudges  
and the winks.

What I'm getting now are looks  
of fear. People seem to be  
scared of something, but  
nobody wants to talk about  
it. At least not to me.

I'm **BECKY  
BURDOCK**



**VAMPIRE REPORTER**

Did I mention that whole  
VAMPIRE business?

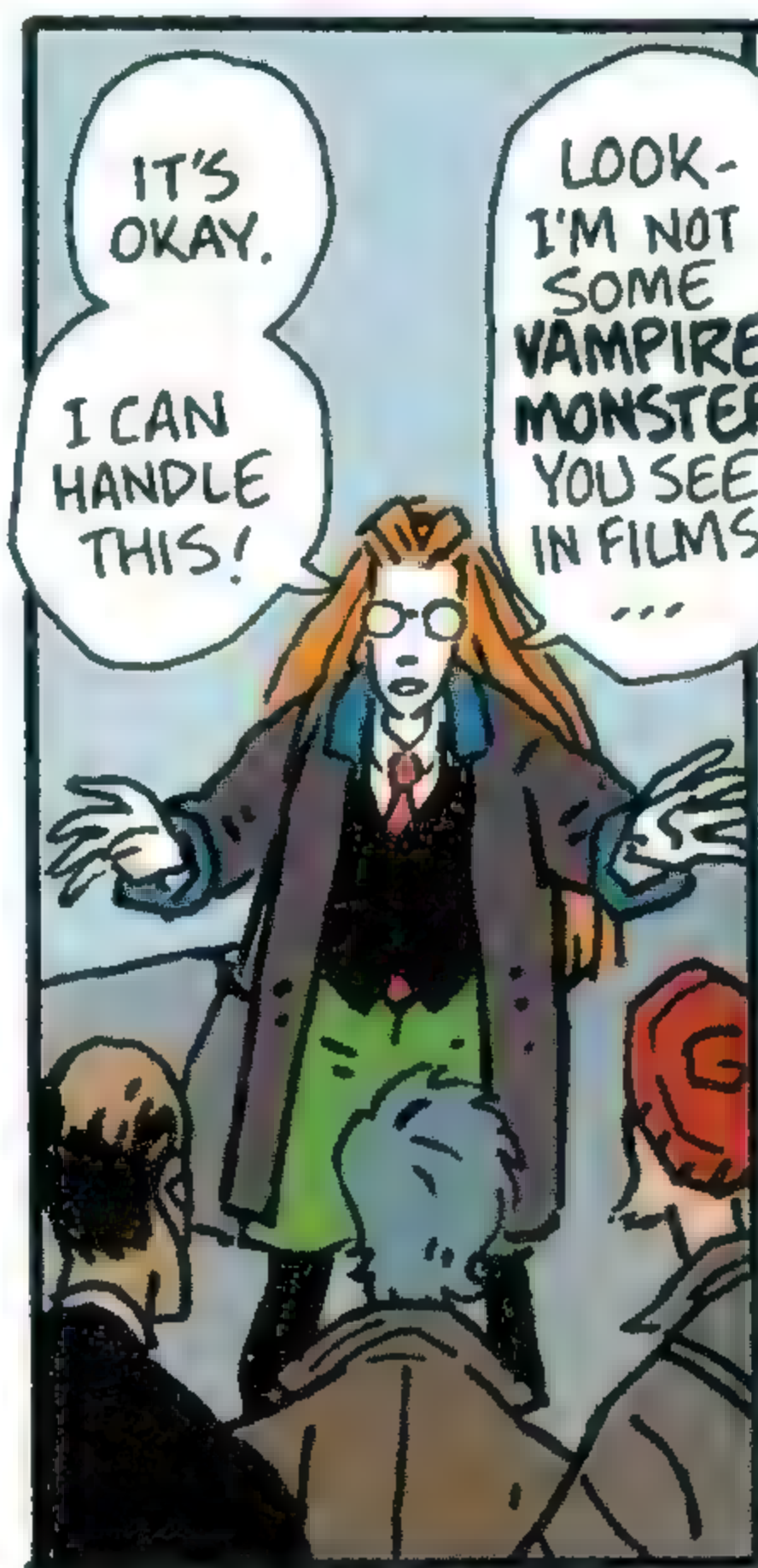
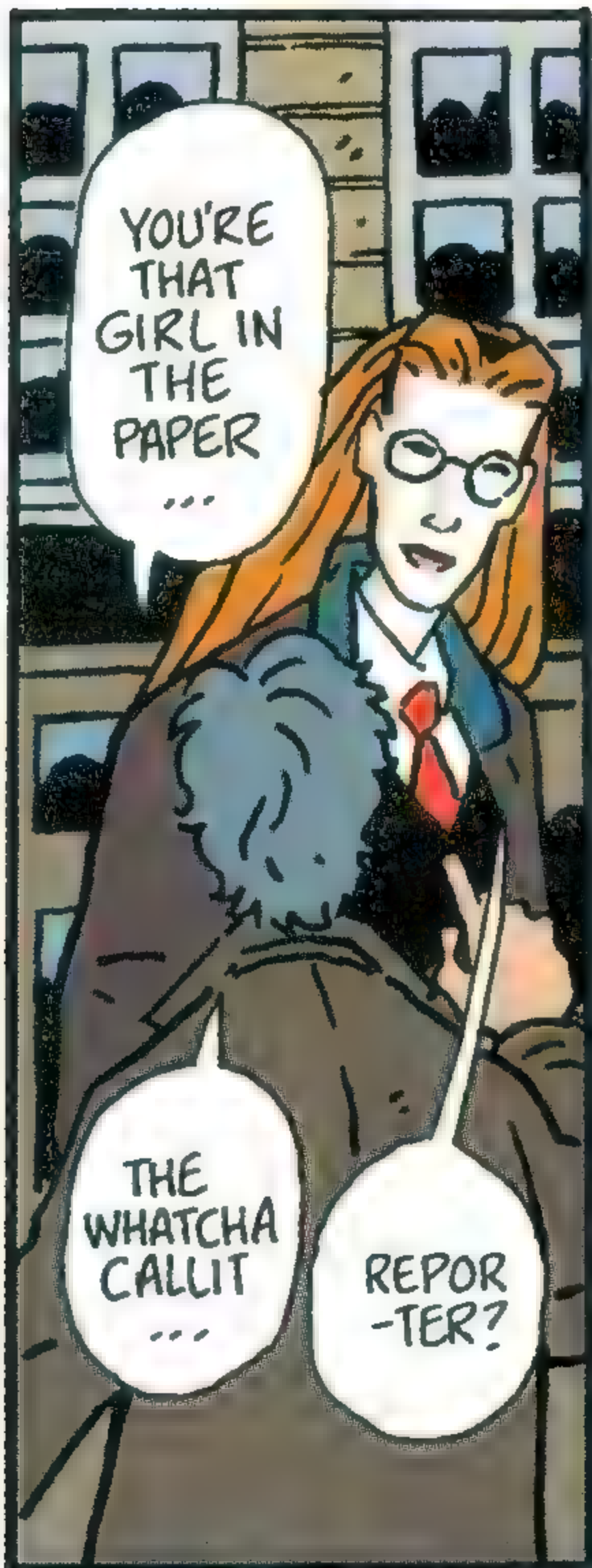




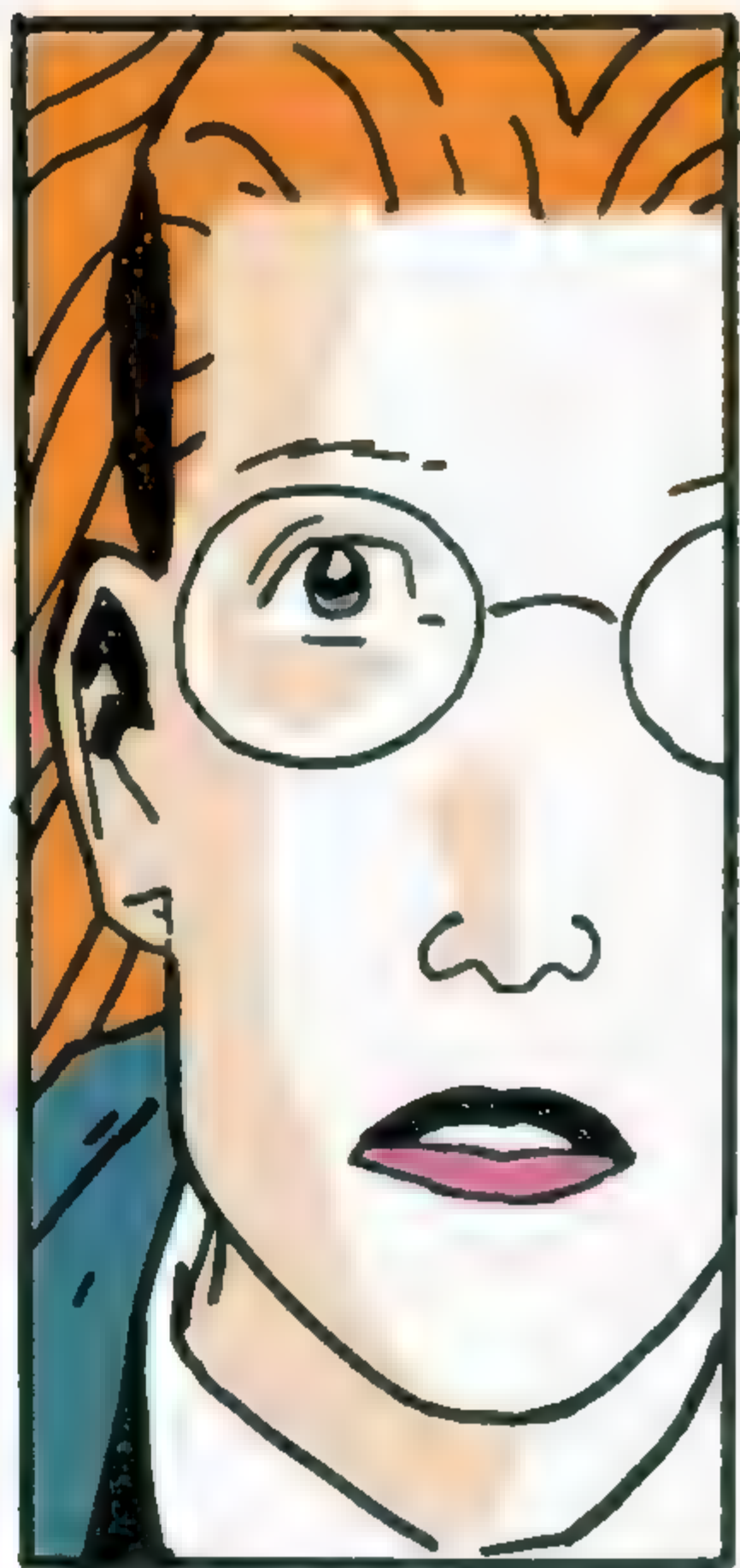
Keep on walking.









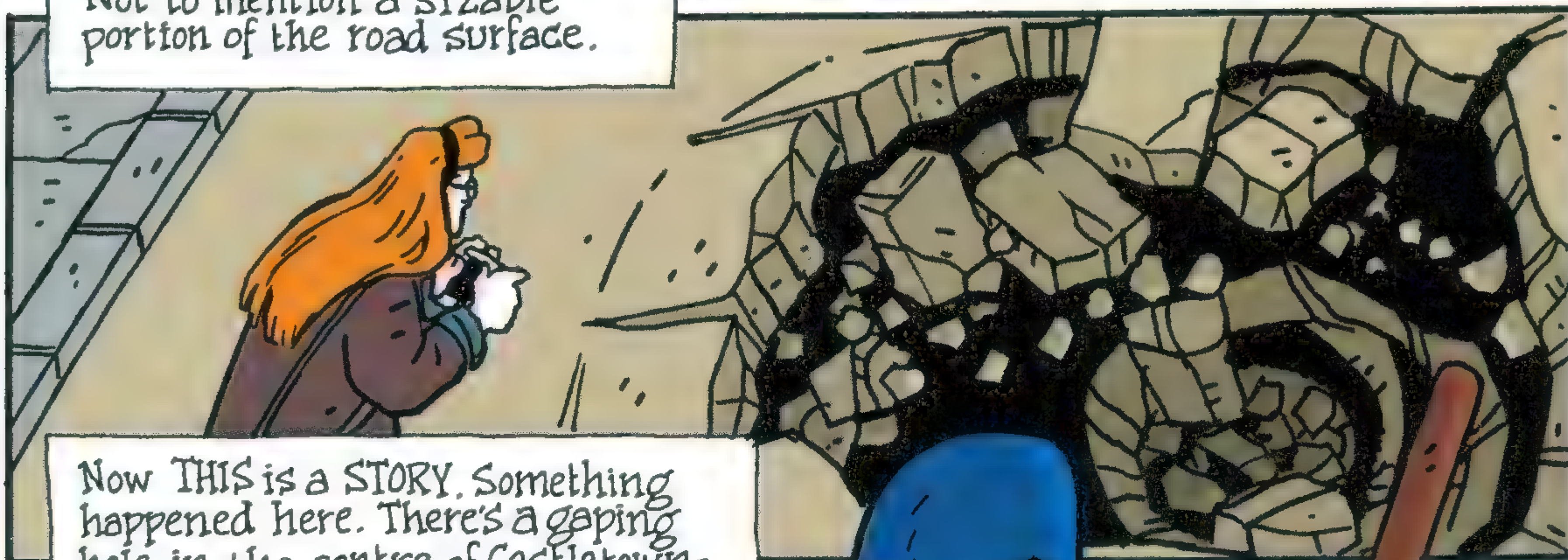




Well, that's one way to  
break up an unruly mob.



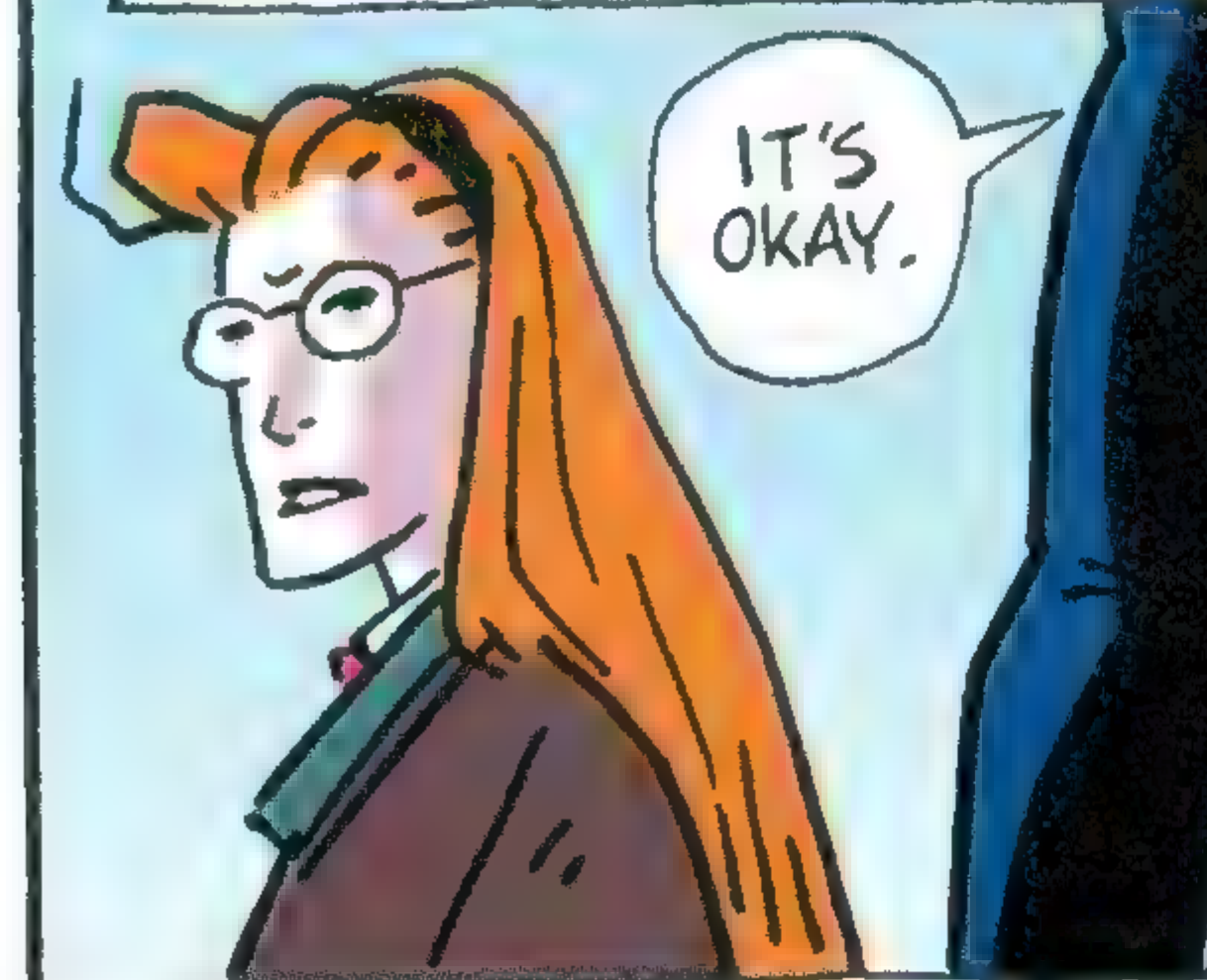
Not to mention a sizable  
portion of the road surface.



Now THIS is a STORY. Something  
happened here. There's a gaping  
hole in the centre of Castletown-  
it's my job to get to the bottom of it.



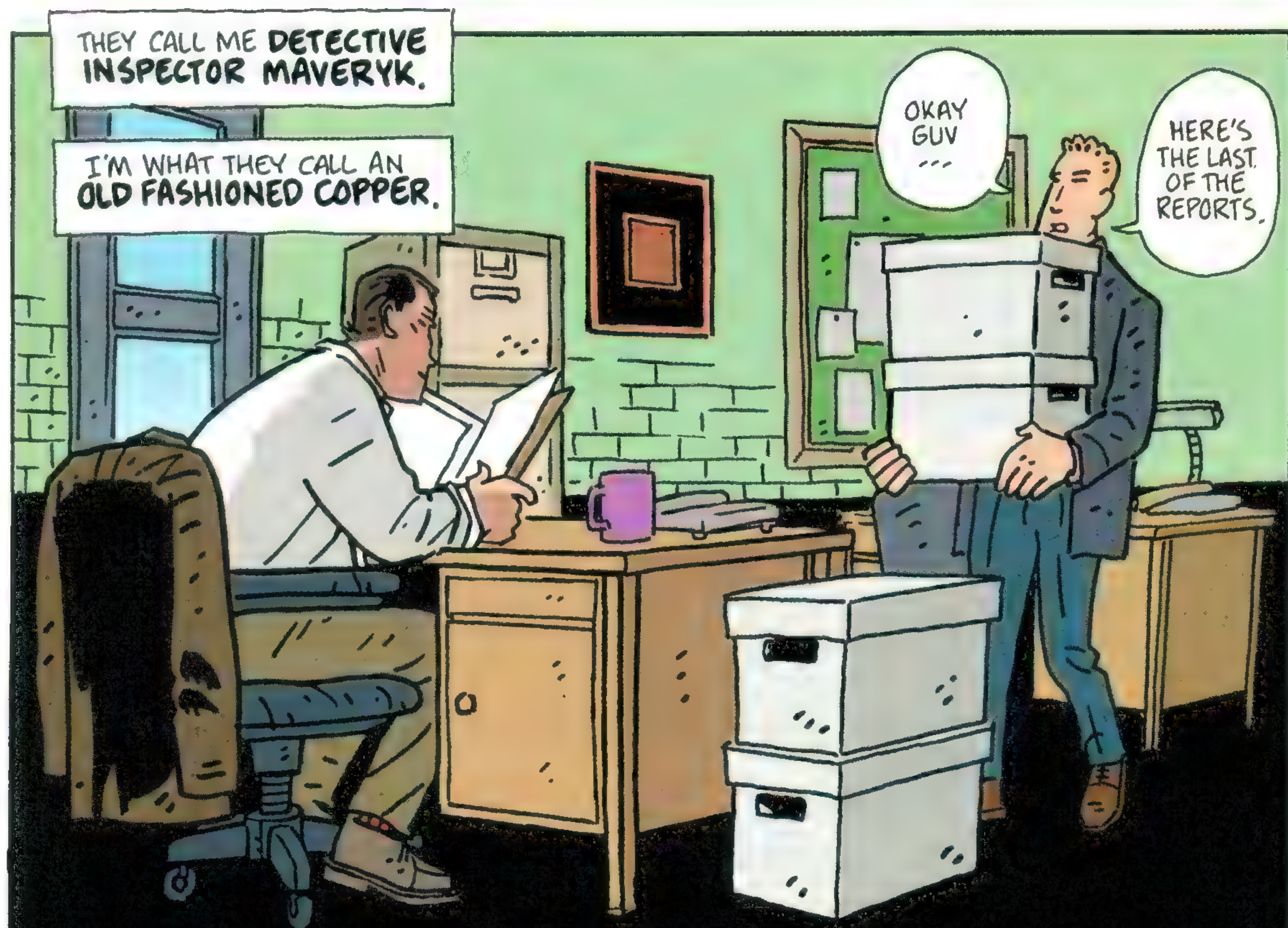
Then JOHN SMITH decides  
he wants to hog all the  
glory for himself. Typical.



Did I mention that  
whole SUPER-HERO  
business?

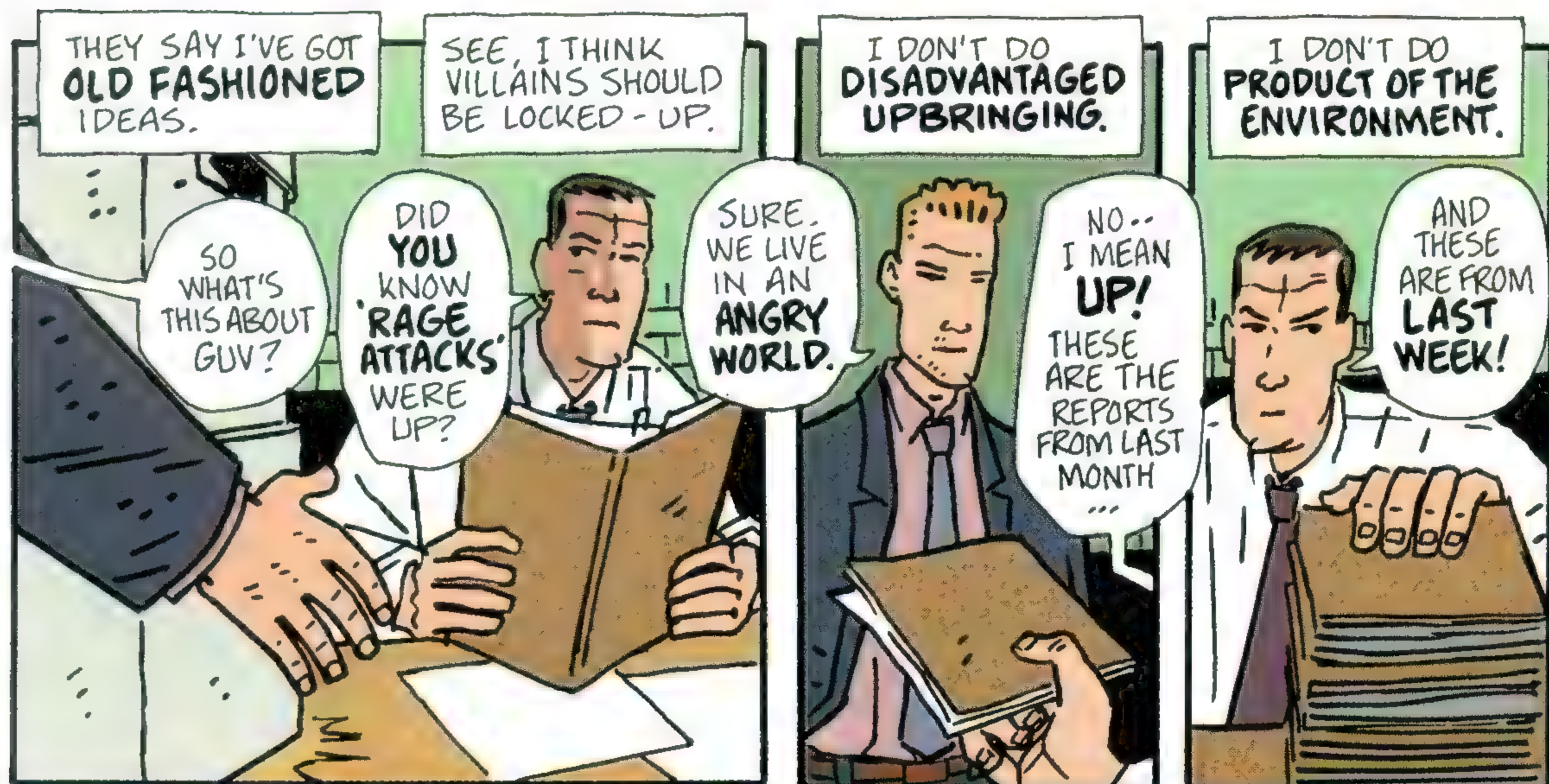






# DETECTIVE INSPECTOR **MAVERYK**

featuring DETECTIVE SGT. "ZIPPER" NOLAN







# RAARGH!



THE LITTLE WITCH.

INSPECTOR  
MAVERYK?

WE  
HEARD  
SOME  
NOISE  
...

IS  
EVERY  
THING  
OKAY?

SIR?

IT'S  
OKAY.  
EVERY  
THING'S  
FINE.

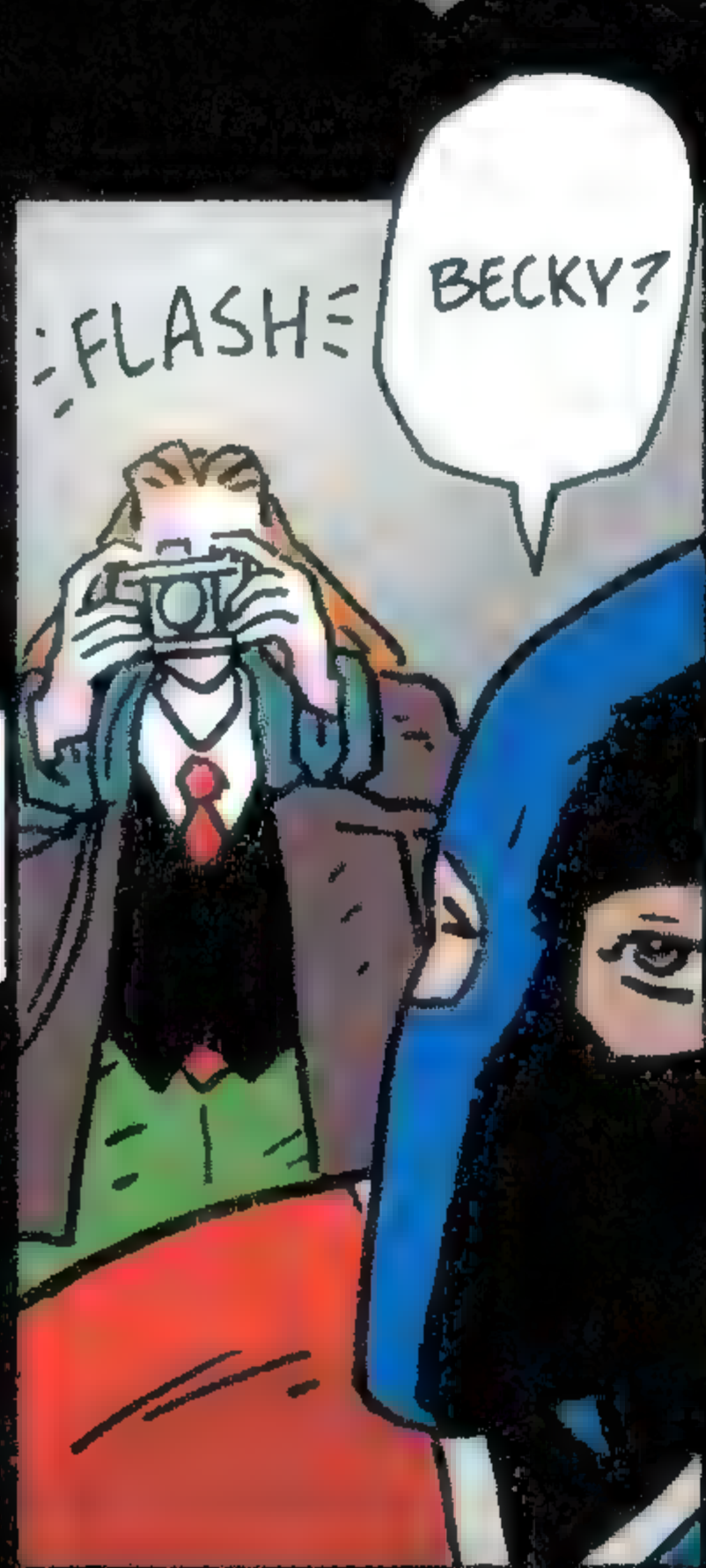
I UH  
JUST  
KNOCKED  
A FILE  
OFF MY  
DESK.

GET  
ME  
Q.  
NOW.





# JACK STAFF



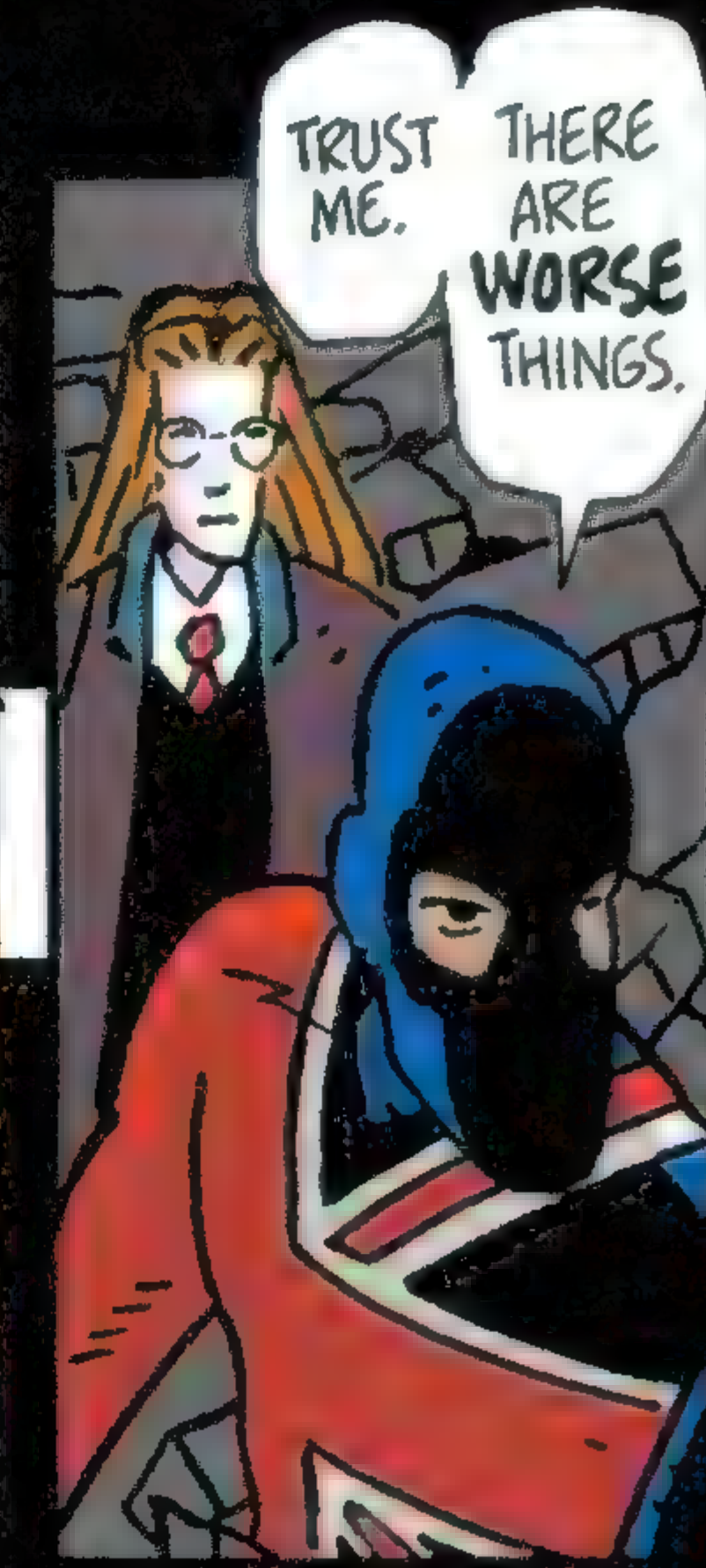
BECKY?



WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S DOWN HERE. IT COULD BE DANGER-  
OUS.



HOW DANGER-  
OUS CAN IT BE?



TRUST ME. THERE ARE WORSE THINGS.



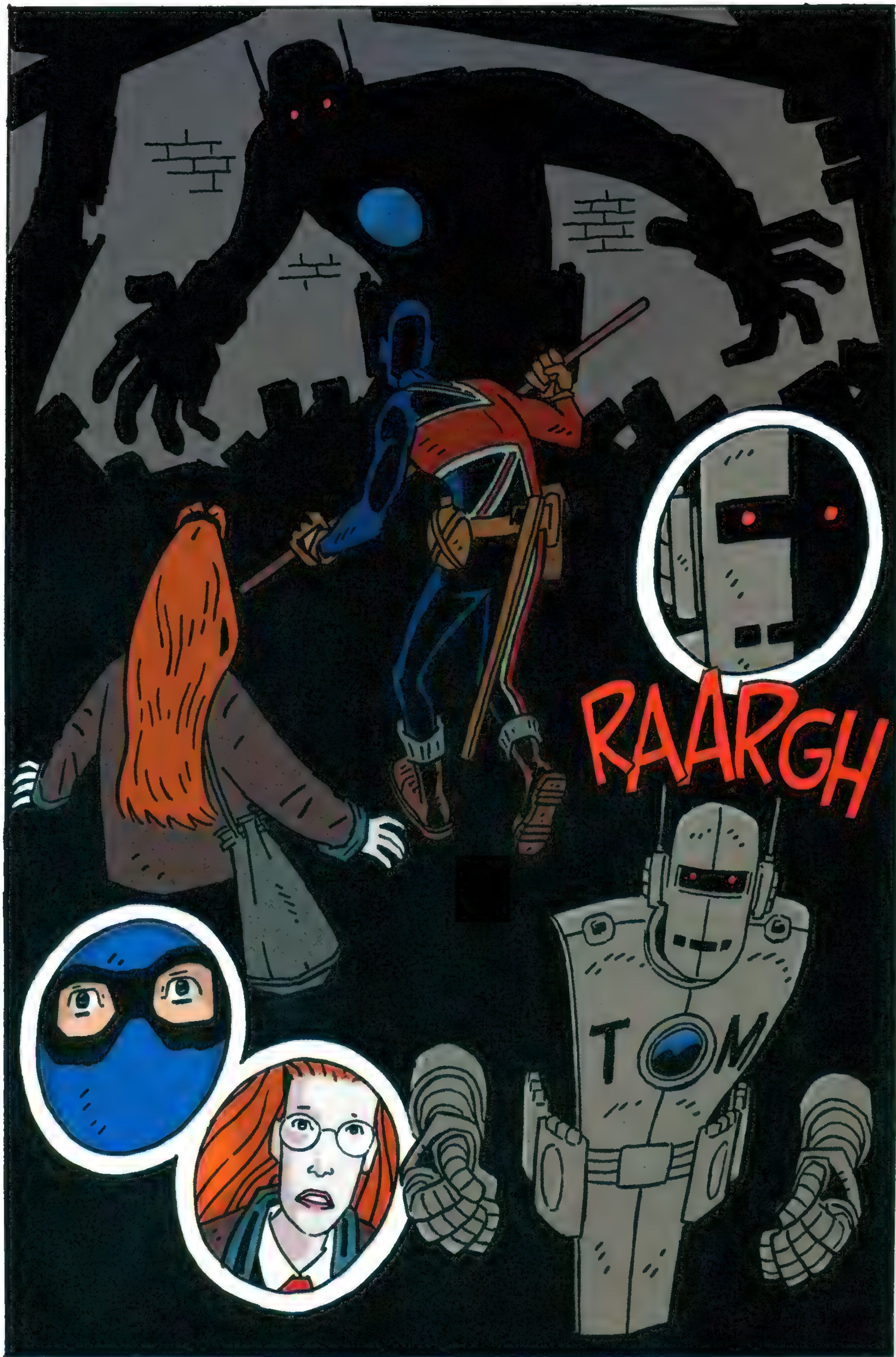
SO WHERE ARE WE?

I RECKON WE SHOULD BE UNDER THE CARPET WARE HOUSE.















You know what they say. If a thing's worth doing it's worth doing twice.

So hello and welcome to the world of Jack Staff. British Superheroes in a British Superhero Universe. Or a small northern city to be more geographically specific.



# FLAG WAVING

Now, to be honest, British Comics have never really 'done' Superheroes. When you think British Superhero the only ones that spring immediately to mind are Union Jack, Captain Britain - both American creations - and Miracleman (or Marvelman for the puritans out there) - which was basically a note by note reworking of Captain Marvel. The only 'true' British Superhero was probably Zenith by Grant Morrison and Steve Yowell for 2000 AD back in the 1980's.

The traditional British weekly comic would feature stories of huge robots, men with steel hands or working class runners who worked on the building site in the morning, raced in the afternoon and had a fish and chip supper on his way home. This was the British comic world that I grew up with.

Jack Staff is a British Superhero who lived in that world between the pages of Kelly's Eye, Janus Stark and General Jumbo. You just never saw him that much, that's all.

You're going to see a lot more of him now.

Paul Grist - December 31st 2002

I don't usually do thank-yous, it's a bit too rock star for me, but there are a few people who deserve a mention this time round. Firstly, thanks to everyone at Image for all the work they've done in getting this comic out to you, and a special mention to Eric Stephenson, who got the ball rolling in the first place. Thanks to Phil for a very nice job on the colours and making me look so good. Thank-you to everyone who was there from the beginning and helped spread the word, and to everyone else, glad to have you on board! Big thank-you to Jo and Christopher xxx!

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TA9 4WD  
ENGLAND

Danceleph@aol.com

## NEXT ISSUE



As if things weren't bad enough, the British Army joins the fight





# THE PARLIAMENT OF JUSTICE

MIKE AVON OEMING  
POWERS • BASTARD SAMURAI

NEIL VOKES  
SUPERMAN ADVENTURES

"Oeming and Vokes have stirred up an intoxicating blend of Fritz Lang, Bob Kane, and Walter Gibson, making a comic book that bends modern myth to their own indomitable will. If you think you know how these men work, you don't. Prepare to be amazed."

- Jamie S. Rich, editor-in-chief of Oni Press and author of Cut My Hair

"With recent hits like POWERS, HAMMER OF THE GODS and BASTARD SAMURAI under his belt, PARLIAMENT OF JUSTICE is the latest piece proving that Mike Oeming is at the top of his game. The artwork of Neil Vokes jumps off the page and the crisp writing pulls you into a world that is edgy and shockingly insightful in the end."

- Jonathan Kaidin, Production Executive, Columbia Pictures

**image**





# HAMMER of the GODS

image

"HAMMER HITS CHINA"

ISSUE 2

CHINA  
HITS  
BACK!

by MICHAEL AVON OERING &  
MARK OBIE WHEATLEY



and  
introducing  
The



# FRANKENSTEIN MOBSTER

By MARK WHEATLEY

IN APRIL  
ONLY FROM



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# SAVAGE DRAGON

#109



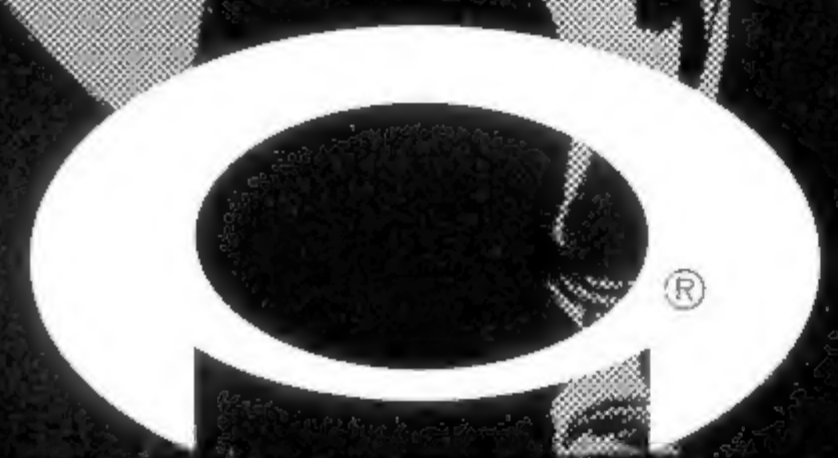
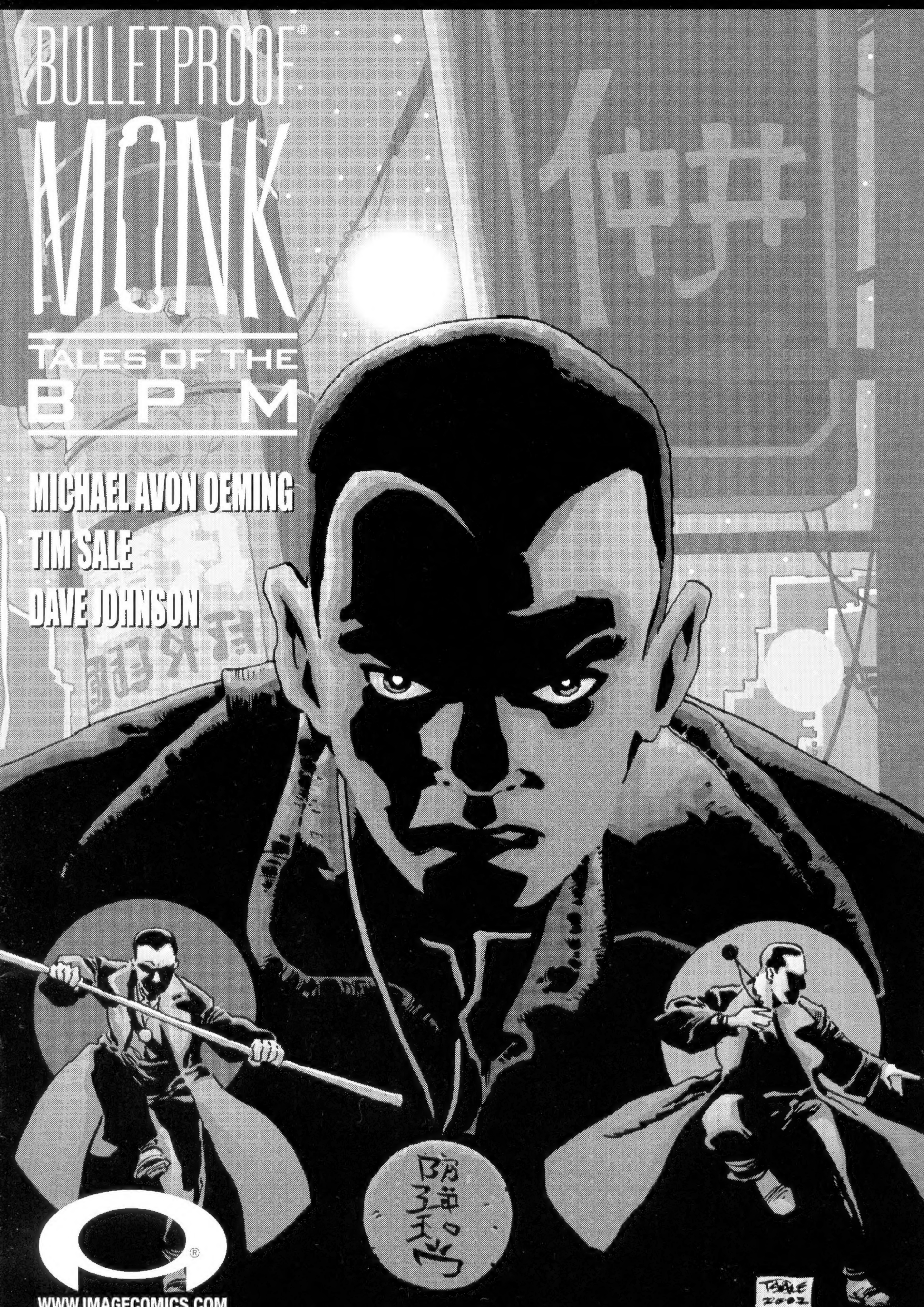


CATCH BULLETPROOF MONK THE MOTION PICTURE STARRING CHOW YUN-FAT

# BULLETPROOF<sup>®</sup> MONK

TALES OF THE  
B P M

MICHAEL AVON OEMING  
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TALE  
2002



RAARGH

